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Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Envoy: Solution to Crisis With West Possible

NC2007165593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, Libya's permanent envoy to the Arab League, returned to Cairo from Tunisia this afternoon.

On arrival, al-Bishari stated that the door has not been closed on a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis, adding that since the crisis began Libya has worked to reach a peaceful and satisfactory solution that is acceptable for all the parties. He said many efforts have been made through many fraternal countries, such as Egypt, and several European countries. Then there are the efforts of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, with whom he met recently in Egypt. He said: We must wait for the outcome of these efforts.

On the obstacles impeding a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis, al-Bishari said: There is stubbornness by some of the concerned parties, which demand that Libya contravene the agreed principles of international law and the UN Charter, which calls for respecting countries' sovereignty.

On Libya's mediation between Egypt and Sudan, Ibrahim al-Bishari said he believed relations between these two countries are eternal, geographical, historical, and governed by the same past and the same future, so there is no need for mediation between the brothers.

Arab League Committee Discusses Pan-Arab Security

NC2007115993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—The Pan-Arab Security Committee held a meeting chaired by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the Arab League headquarters today. The League's assistant secretaries general and several advisers attended.

The committee discussed studies concerning a comprehensive pan-Arab security plan to compile a final report for submission to the Arab League Council at its next session in September, according to a League council resolution from a previous session.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reaffirms Support for Confederation

JN2007133293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East, during which he will discuss the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today reiterated his support for this confederation, but after the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. He added: The confederation will be established after this as a result of the free and voluntary choice of the two fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian people.

In a letter to students at al-Najah University in Nabulus, carried by WAFA, the Palestinian News Agency, 'Arafat explained that the issue deals with resolutions the Palestinian National Council had adopted.

Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinians participate in the Middle East peace conference because they firmly believe in peace. He added: The enemy should understand that we want a just peace, not a capitulation.

Al-Husayni: Confederation With Jordan 'Required'

NC2007210793 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Report by Nidal Qabalan]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has publicly approved for the first time the idea of establishing a confederation between Jordan and Palestine. In a telephone message to the students of al-Najah University in the West Bank, 'Arafat stated that confederation between the two is part of the Palestine National Council's resolutions. The Palestinians say the idea of a confederation seeks to break the stalemate in the talks for Palestinian self-rule. I asked Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, about the impact 'Arafat's statement will have on the Palestinians inside the territories:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] In fact, this decision reflects the resolution issued in 1988 regarding the confederation. It also reflects the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement signed before the Madrid peace conference. I believe that we at the Palestinian level see that the establishment of a confederation between Palestine and Jordan is required. As you know, a confederation means a grouping between two states. Thus, I believe that once a decision in this respect is adopted by higher-level quarters, we have to go back to the people to ask their opinion.

[Qabalan] You said that the confederation is an official Palestinian request. Israel and the United States have repeatedly called for a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. Do you see the Palestinian official endorsement of this idea as a Palestinian retreat or a tactical step to promote the talks?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the Palestinian demand for a confederation goes back to 1987, or even before that. This is very clear for us and therefore it is not an act of submission to any call. In fact, we have not heard any Israeli or U.S. call for a confederation. The only time that the word confederation is mentioned by the Americans is in the letter of assurances, in which they told us that while they do not back the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, they do not object to or rule out a solution based on a confederation. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi Favors Peres' Plan on Final-Stage Talks

TA2007141693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation, by Khamis al-Turk; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Turk] Do you think that Ross will be honest in relaying what transpired between him and the Palestinian figures with whom he met?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Of course. I believe that Ross will convey all his impressions objectively and honestly to the secretary of state.

[Al-Turk] Do you believe that Christopher will bring anything new or modify the U.S. document rejected by the Palestinians?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I hope that Christopher will come with new ideas that respond to our basic demands.

[Al-Turk] Despite U.S. intransigence and Israeli rejection, you have reiterated that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. Do you believe that this Palestinian voice will be heard?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, the issue of Jerusalem, beyond any argument, is an inalienable right that cannot be conceded. What is important in the negotiations is stopping settlement activity and all illegal Israeli practices in Jerusalem. We can postpone discussion of the issue of Jerusalem, whether it is a divided or undivided city. This under no circumstances means that we will relinquish our right to Jerusalem. It must be the capital of our future state. In the face of every illegal Israeli claim, we stress that Jerusalem is an occupied area. Everything that applies to the occupied territories applies to Jerusalem, as well.

[Al-Turk] Is there any U.S. pressure on the Palestinian side?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. U.S. pressure is being exerted on us to accept the U.S. viewpoint. There are attempts to persuade us to do so. Persuasion can also include pressure. This is the situation. Their attempt to persuade us is their concern, just as our response or rejection is our concern.

[Al-Turk] According to the Israeli media, you have voiced support for Peres' plan on negotiations about the final stage. What do you think of this plan?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Peres' view is that the final stage be discussed first. I support this view and believe that this will make the negotiating process easier. In other words, we should reach agreement on the final stage first and then on the interim stage, because we have spent 20 months without progress discussing the interim stage. This is proof of how difficult the discussions and the path are. I believe that reaching agreement on the final shape is preferable.

[Al-Turk] What is your answer to those who say that the Palestinian delegation has forgotten the Marj al-Zuhur deportees, especially as seven months have passed since the deportation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is not true. Our position still calls on Israel to implement Resolution 799.

[Al-Turk] Rumors are being circulated about behind-the-scenes talks between the PLO and Israel. What is your comment on this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is not true. We have not been briefed nor do we know whether such contacts exist or not. Despite this, in the course of history there will always be secret talks, but no agreement will be concluded except at the negotiating table. We are not troubled by these reports.

[Al-Turk] You have called for a collective Palestinian leadership. The Israeli media, however, have inflated these statements and have said that there is disagreement between you and President 'Arafat. What is your response?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is improper for the Israeli media to exploit my statements, under these circumstances, and try to drive a wedge among Palestinians. I stress, however, that there are no personal differences between me, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], or anyone else. I express my views because my responsibility is to be honest with everyone.

[Al-Turk] You have been with the Palestinian cause since the outset. If your were in 'Arafat's place, what would you have done under the current conditions of occupation and the intifadah?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I will try to realize what I am calling for, namely, a collective leadership that functions on a democratic basis. [passage omitted]

Hawatimah on Ross Visit, National Dialogue

TA2007194593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Rashid Hilal and Sa'idah Hamad; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-QUDS] What is your impression of Ross' visit to the region and what proposals were made to the Palestinians during this visit?

[Hawatimah] During his recent tour, U.S. envoy Dennis Ross did not bring any new ideas to the Palestinian side. He repeated what had been raised at the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating table and in the Palestinian delegation's talks with the U.S. State Department team in Washington.

[AL-QUDS] Then, in your opinion, what was the trip's aim?

[Hawatimah] The aim of Ross' visit was to pressure the Palestinian side—either by entreatment or intimidation—into accepting the 20 June paper submitted by the U.S. State Department during the last round as the basis for a settlement on the Palestinian-Israeli track. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS] What is your response to the idea of early transfer of Civil Administration powers to the self-rule council?

[Hawatimah] It is a proposal that represents a step backward compared to the Madrid Confrence letter of invitation and a step backward compared to the Camp David accords. This idea seeks to fragment the implementation of self-rule after the Madrid invitation divided the talks into two stages. The idea also aims at bypassing legislative elections for choosing legislative and executive councils for self-rule and at transforming Palestinian self-rule into an executive tool in the hands of the occupation. In his recent meeting with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem, Ross tried to peddle this plan and intimidate the Palestinians by saying that Arab aid will remain suspended until the Palestinians agree to sign an Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles and begin to implement self-rule by taking over some Civil Administration duties. This is a step toward Palestinian recognition of the legitimacy of Israeli occupation of the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS] Are you saying that we are facing a new U.S. strategy on the Middle East problem?

[Hawatimah] Yes. We are facing a U.S. strategy whose title is: Providing Security and Stability for the Region to Safeguard U.S. Interests, and Considering Israel's Interests as Part of U.S. Interests. This was manifested in the U.S. paper submitted on 12 May and the one submitted on 20 June, which the Palestinians were unanimous in believing was worse than its predecessor. This new U.S. strategy has been formulated by a working team known for its affiliation to the American Jewish lobby. It is this team that is now in charge of the Middle East problem in the U.S. State Department. The team is headed by Samuel Lewis, former U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv and current head of policy planning at the State Department; Dennis Ross, the talks coordinator; and Martin Indyk, official in charge of Middle Eastern affairs at the National Security Council. The last two are senior officials in the Institute for Near East Policy in Washington, which is close to the Jewish lobby. Aaron Miller and Dan Kurtzer are the other members of the team. This team has abandoned the bases of the Madrid Conference as formulated by the previous U.S. Administration. It is trying to reinforce new bases that represent a jump backward and are so close to Israeli positions as to be almost totally similar to them.

Therefore, we in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said that this is a new opportunity looming on the horizon that allows the negotiating faction in the PLO to get rid of the Madrid formula with its unjust conditions. Let us reject the U.S. paper, suspend participation in the bilateral talks, and boycott the multilateral talks. We called for a comprehensive national dialogue that recreates a new Palestinian strategy, arranges the Palestinian house and the intifadah situation, and forges a cohesive Palestinian position that declares its adherence to a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy, backed by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, and which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state with its capital holy Jerusalem. We also called for reassessing the other Arab tracks because of their linkage with the Palestinian track and the negative or positive reflections on it, and because of the gravity of the U.S.-Israeli plans that seek to reshape the Middle East within a new order in which Israel will play a central and determining role and the Arab states will keep their role of political and economic dependence. Therefore, we renew the call to suspend Arab participation in the bilateral talks and to boycott the multilateral talks, which are moving toward normalizing Arab relations with Israel amid continued Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and south Lebanon.

[AL-QUDS] In light of the talks held between the main Palestinian factions—Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the DFLP, can one say that the ongoing contacts among these parties have produced tangible results?

[Hawatimah] We in the DFLP were among the initiators of the call to suspend the bilateral talks and sit at the table of a comprehensive national dialogue after the negotiations, in their present format, caused a deep division within the PLO and its institutions and in the people's ranks. The call was further developed by means of a bilateral initiative between us and the PFLP comrades, and within the framework of the two Fronts' unified command, and afterward within the framework of a quadrilateral position of the two Fronts along with the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and the Palestine Liberation Front. The more Palestinian forces and figures sensed the extent of the danger epitomized by the current talks and the scope of the present division in the PLO and its institutions, the more active forces embraced the call for dialogue. The most prominent of those is, undoubtedly, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and a broad spectrum of national figures in the occupied territories and the diaspora. [passage omitted]

Editorial: U.S. Must Change View on Arab Position

PM2107081493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17-18 Jul 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Christopher and His Forthcoming Shuttle Tour"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's decision to visit the region again at the end of this month means that the U.S. Administration is aware of the failure of the current style of bilateral negotiations and of the need to find a new formula to boost the stumbling peace process.

After 10 rounds of negotiations lasting nearly two years and costing millions of dollars, the results have been disappointing and the Arab region is more tense now than it was before the start of the negotiation process in Madrid.

Christopher must have made his decision after seeing the results of his assistant Dennis Ross' six-day tour of the region, from which Ross returned more convinced that something must be done very quickly to save what can be saved before the Arabs renounce the entire process and the U.S. role in it.

It has been reported that Christopher will follow Henry Kissinger's successful method of shuttling between the various capitals of the region to formulate proposals acceptable to all parties, but Kissinger's style, which succeeded in the early 1970's, may not achieve the same success in the 1990's.

Nobody would disagree that the Arab and Israeli positions on the question of a settlement are still separated by a gulf of differences because of Israeli intransigence, especially on the Palestinian track.

Israel wants land and peace; it wants Jerusalem, and it insists on keeping the settlements it built in the occupied territories in the transitional and final stages. It backs that up by building new settlements and strengthening old ones and by stepping up settlement in occupied Jerusalem, so much so that the number of Jews in occupied Jerusalem has now surpassed the number of Arabs for the first time in history.

Although that Israeli attitude is not surprising, what is surprising is the U.S. position, which is totally aligned with the Hebrew state and its expansionist policy at the expense of Arab territory, as evident in the latest U.S. paper on the declaration of principles on autonomy and the transitional period.

Despite the fact that the United States considers the settlements to be illegitimate and claims that it insists on the UN resolutions and regards them as the basis for its actions in more than one place in the world, it did not mention the settlements at all in that paper. It spoke of the occupied Arab territories as disputed territories and did not mention occupied Jerusalem as part of these territories.

Christopher's visit to the region might have a chance of succeeding if the U.S. Administration changed its method, became less partial to Israel, and began to understand Arab demands. The 10 rounds of negotiations have proved that the Arabs will never accept peace on Israel's terms. That is why the negotiations made no progress, unless we consider meeting face to face as the desired progress.

Without a complete change in the U.S. position, the U.S. Administration will never find anyone who will dare to sign a peace treaty that does not provide for complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and for the implementation of all UN resolutions. It is said that, like all the former administrations, the current U.S. Administration is still unable or unwilling to understand that simple equation. That is why its delegations will continue to tour the region to no avail.

Need for Talks To Follow Original Terms Cited

TA2007142293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 19 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "No International Law Equals Liquidating Palestinian Rights"]

[Text] The gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions is just as wide after the Dennis Ross visit to the region as it was before. At least Palestinians and Israelis agree on this.

The Palestinians still believe that, although they have been expressing their willingness to reach a peaceful settlement with the Israelis in both words and deeds, and while they have been trying to rid themselves of the occupation and pave the way for statehood, they are still being faced with Israel's refusal to abide by international law, particularly pertaining to Jerusalem and settlements. Meanwhile, the Palestinians are confronted with the American efforts to make it easy for Israel to escape international legitimacy and condemnation.

If any real progress is to be made in this process, something more than bargaining skills needs to be demonstrated by the American "mediators." Rather than killing time forging new terms of reference, there must be full adherence to the original terms called for in the Madrid conference.

We believe that the imposition of a solution is within reach, should the American Administration opt to implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. And we believe these terms, which met the acceptance of the world community at the time when they were issued, will also meet the strong support of this community should the U.S. Administration decide to put them into effect.

It goes without saying that this will not happen soon or easily. Neither the Israeli-American strategic alliance nor the balance of power in this region indicate otherwise. But unless that happens, and our basic rights as Palestinians are guaranteed through respect for international law, and all the parties are ready to put them into effect, we will continue to believe that liquidating our national rights and our very existence are basically what is wanted by this process.

We really hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, during his visit, will bring something different to the region, something that will dictate the implementation of international law, no matter how difficult that might be on his allies.

That is the only way to guarantee progress for the negotiating process and success for his administration's endeavors.

Christopher's Upcoming Visit to Region Appraised

TA2007170993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Jul 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Will There Be Anything New in the U.S. Briefcase?"]

[Text] It has been announced in Washington that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make a shuttle trip to the Middle East region at the beginning of August, during which he will visit the various capitals involved in the negotiating process.

Certainly, the U.S. secretary would not have run the risk of such a visit had he not received assurances from the U.S. "peace team," led by Dennis Ross, after having visited the region, that it was possible to reach agreement on the peace process "principles." The U.S. secretary has visited the

region before, on his first trip outside the country after assuming his post. That visit resulted only in sending back the negotiating delegations once again to continue the stalled negotiations. Undoubtedly, the U.S. secretary does not wish another failure, especially as U.S. foreign policy is suffering from weakness and flaws, whether on the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue or trade relations with Japan. Naturally, a new failure in the Middle East will add one more setback to the domestic and international setbacks sustained by the weak Clinton administration.

As we mentioned, this assessment leads us to believe that Christopher's visit will have to produce something. The question is: What is that something? And how will the U.S. Administration be able to invigorate the negotiating process?

We know that in its handling of the Middle East negotiations, the U.S. Administration is trying to reach a joint "declaration of principles" between the Palestinians and Israelis. We also know that because of the Palestinian insistence on linking the stages, this administration has become convinced that the "Madrid formula" no longer exists or is effective in advancing the negotiating process. Third, we know that the administration has begun searching for new formulas to push this process forward. Fourth, we must not forget that this administration is basically and totally biased in favor of Israel. Therefore, the new U.S. formulas will adopt the Israeli concept for solving the dispute.

The U.S. "peace team" proposed a new formula for advancing the negotiating process, namely, "confederation." The U.S. Administration is attempting now to obtain Palestinian and Jordanian agreement to this legal relationship, which, while providing "assurance" on the shape of a final solution, removes from everyone's mind the possibility of establishing an independent Palestinian state. In its effort to obtain Palestinian and Jordanian agreement, the United States is placing the cart before the horse. The talks are not between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides, but between these sides and Israel. Evidently, the appropriate thing is to reach agreement on ending the occupation first before discussing the shape those relations will have to take after the end of occupation. It should be stressed that all efforts to bypass or circumvent substantive issues in the negotiations will intensify complications rather than solve them.

It is very clear that Secretary Christopher will not be carrying to the Palestinians in his briefcase anything other than further demands for "flexibility" in positions so as to push the negotiating process forward. It is one of the ironies these days that the one who is languishing under the occupation is being asked to moderate his position and help the occupier to exploit him permanently under the slogan of "advancing" the negotiating process.

Meeting Between PLO Adviser, Israeli Figure Denied

NC2007171093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—The Palestinian Information Office in Cairo has categorically denied that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, met with the director general of the Israeli Defense Ministry during the latter's recent visit to Cairo. In a statement today, a source at the information office said that Sha'th was in Amman during the Israeli official's visit to Cairo.

Press reports published in London today noted that Dr. Sha'th met with the Israeli official on Monday and Wednesday [12 and 14 July] and that Dr. Sha'th handed him some Palestinian proposals.

Official Describes Heated Debates at Fatah Meetings

JN2007114493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jul 93 pp 1, 17

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestinian official has revealed what is going on in the meetings of the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the biggest Palestinian movement, currently taking place in Tunis.

The senior official, who declined to reveal his identity, told SAWT AL-SHA'B by telephone from Tunis yesterday that the bloc led by the Fatah second-in-command Hani al-Hasan, which includes 'Abbas Zaki, Subhi Abu-Karsh, 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, Abu-Mahir Ghunaym, and Muhammad Jihad, is still united and determined to press for a revision of Fatah's financial, organizational, and administrative conditions.

The official said that during this meeting, the bloc insisted on continuing where it had left off in the previous meeting. A fact-finding committee has officially been formed under Subhi Abu-Karsh, the Palestinian ambassador in Saudi Arabia, with Sakhr Busaysu, administrative director at the Political Department, and Zaki Abu-Hayyah, a Fatah military commander, as members.

The official also said that another committee has been formed to review the Fatah Movement's budgets and budget structures in general.

The official noted that statements by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, in which he demanded the formation of a collective leadership for the PLO and cutting President 'Arafat's powers, stirred up sharp differences within the Central Committee and a number of the Committee members supported 'Abd-al-Shafi's appeal.

The senior Palestinian official said that most of the Committee members refused to dub 'Abd-al-Shafi's statements as directed against the PLO. He revealed that 40 out of the 100 Fatah Revolutionary Council members who represent most of the organizational bodies and cadres threatened to withdraw from the meeting unless the resignation is accepted of six members who had earlier submitted their resignation to 'Arafat. He said that the 40 members wanted the six vacant seats filled by others, and they threatened not to participate in the meeting unless a decision was made on these resignations. The official did not say if their resignations were accepted but said that heated discussions were still continuing.

The official said that the political report submitted by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and secretary of the Fatah Movement, was rejected because it came in a narrative form. He noted that most of the Council members protested against reports presented to them because they were untrue.

The Palestinian official said that the members raised the issue of the U.S. paper which was presented to the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Revolutionary Council members said that while they were informed that the PLO, depending on a decision by the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, rejected the paper and refused to deal with it, the negotiating delegation members were submitting amendments to this paper to Dennis Ross.

The Palestinian official denied the Israeli radio reports that the Central Committee had recommended that the Revolutionary Council dismisses 'Arafat but said that the situation inside the movement was very difficult.

Council Discusses Peace Talks' Progress

LD2007174993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council is continuing its meetings under the chairmanship of President Commander Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. This evening the council will hold a working session in which the members will complete discussion of the points that have been raised concerning the political situation and the progress of the negotiating process, in light of Israeli intransigence and the American bias toward Israel. The council will also review the domestic Palestinian situation from its various angles.

DFLP, PFLP Discuss Merger Plans in Damascus

JN2107115093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jul 93 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The three major PLO factions—the Fatah Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]—have held separate meetings that have been described by observers as the most important since the Palestinian resistance left Beirut in 1983.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council is meeting in Tunis in the presence of 100 members. In a telephone conversation with AL-RA'Y from Tunis, three Council members said that a relaxed and calm atmosphere permeated the meetings during the discussions of the internal situation which took place the day before yesterday and continued throughout the night. This is despite the fact that two of the Council members had expected a heated discussion to take place while reviewing the political situation and the comprehensive national dialogue during last night's meeting. The Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting is expected to be the longest since Fatah was launched in 1965. It will end tomorrow night, 22 July.

In Damascus, the PFLP and the DFLP are trying to merge after a 24-year separation when the DFLP separated from the PFLP on 22 February 1969. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Taysir Khalid, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, who returned from the Damascus meeting aimed at merging the PFLP with the DFLP, said that the Political Bureaus of the PFLP and the DFLP held a joint and expanded meeting in Damascus. The meeting was chaired by PFLP Secretary General George Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah and was attended by members of the Political Bureaus and Central Councils of the two factions.

Khalid said that during the meeting the two sides discussed a merger plan presented by the PFLP calling for the immediate merging of the two factions. He added that agreement was reached to continue practical steps on the ground toward a merger.

Khalid noted that Dr. Habash stressed the need to remove all obstacles to the merger. At the same time, Hawatimah said he would take steps toward achieving the merger. He noted that the DFLP Political Bureau for its part crystallized a working paper which will be presented at a joint meeting of the two factions' political bureaus during the next few days in preparation for presentation of the two plans during the meetings of the Central Councils of the two factions. He said that the DFLP Central Council will meet at the end of August.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Somalia, Terrorism, Peace Talks

NC2007163593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt is playing its role as an active member state of the United Nations. He said Egypt states its opinion clearly and without ambiguity and uses its international clout and relations to create an international voice in support of just causes.

Speaking to students attending an intellectual orientation seminar in Hulwan, President Mubarak said Egypt participated under the UN umbrella, along with several other countries, in peacemaking and peacekeeping operations in Somalia, as well as in securing relief to save the Somali people. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif cited his remarks after the meeting.

President Mubarak pointed out that Somalia is the scene of internal conflicts and attempts to seize power, adding that these attempts are not new and have been going on for several years. He noted that the struggle among the Somali factions has led to a serious deterioration in the country and that the attacks against the Pakistani troops operating within the international peacekeeping forces have complicated the situation between the UN troops and some of the warring factions there.

On the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, President Mubarak said it unfolded against the backdrop of complicated and intertwined European and ethnic conflicts. He said Egypt is dealing with this crisis within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization. President Mubarak stressed that Egypt supports the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina through its relations with the international organizations and uses its political capability to serve this cause. He said Egypt is acting within the limitations of its capabilities and asked: Are we required to send military troops there? He added: Everybody realizes we know our limitations and provide support as much as our capabilities as a state and people permit us, because Egypt is not a superpower. President Mubarak added: The door is open for anyone who wants to travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina, but sensationalism and fund raising [by private groups] are unacceptable.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt's stability is the most important issue. It takes precedence and is the subject of the greatest attention, because without stability the country will run into great economic difficulties.

On the rise in terrorist operations despite the measures taken to confront them, President Mubarak said most of those involved in the terrorist incidents were defendants in the case of the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat who were released recently. He added: Instead of trying to serve their country, they resorted to sabotage, assault, and aggression. President Mubarak added: Some of those returning from Afghanistan have also turned into tools for attacking the people, striking at the economy, and harming innocent citizens. He emphasized that Egypt is a country with firm traditions and that the Egyptian people respect their religion as well as the other doctrines and religions, and everybody is working under Egypt's umbrella.

President Mubarak said those who carry out terrorist incidents have nothing to do with religion. He added that it was natural to apply the law against those who commit crimes against the people and sell their country for a few pounds to destroy the country's economy and shed the blood of innocent men, women, and children. He added: They are people who have no religion and no conscience and who attack the citizens, causing a father to lose his son, brother, or wife. It is the most horrendous sort of aggression against the Egyptian people. President Mubarak stressed that if stability is shaken, Egypt will lose the basic requisites for survival.

Noting terrorism's effects on tourism, Mubarak added: As long as I assume the responsibility the people have assigned to me, the confrontation will continue by the law until stability is achieved, the security of the homeland and of each citizen is safeguarded, terrorism is terminated on Egyptian territory, and stability is restored. The president praised the Egyptian people's stance and their courageous and bold confrontation and pursuit of the terrorist elements.

On Egypt's debts, President Mubarak referred to the contacts held with the United States. He said that thanks to the favorable response of the [former] U.S. Administration and his personal contacts, 15 percent of Egypt's debts were waived in the first stage. He added: Some 15 percent more will be waived when the second agreement is concluded with the IMF in the next few days. Another 20 percent will be waived in the third stage. President Mubarak added: We are working to achieve a balance of market forces and a reasonable balance between wages and prices in 1995, which will enable us to reap the positive fruits of the economic reform policies. He noted that Egypt's debts once amounted to over $40 billion, adding that they will be down to $18 billion when the military debts and the remaining percentages of debts are waived. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on Egypt's role in the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, President Mubarak explained that Egypt is placing the Egyptian negotiator's expertise at the service of these negotiations, referring in this respect to Egypt's experience of retrieving its national soil through war, negotiations, and international justice. The president stressed the need to consider that building confidence between the parties needs time and patience following a conflict over a very complicated 45-year-old issue. He said that there is progress and that Egypt is making major efforts to bring the viewpoints closer.

The president then dealt with the achievements in the infrastructure and explained that the water, electricity, and sewage utilities had to be developed. He said achievements in these projects cost billions of pounds.

On the effects of the IMF and the World Bank conditions on price rises, the president said: If there is a country

capable of financing its projects and investments and providing all the needs of its citizens, then it can dispense with its relations with the IMF. But if the state's resources and investments do not allow it to do so, then it must resort to loans to set up its projects and to provide the necessary funds for buying food and other commodities. He added: We have passed the difficult stage. We suffered a chronic disease. The medicine was bitter, and we had to endure it. I have been frank with you, and I always tell the people the facts frankly. We would have been in a seriously deteriorating situation now if we had not endured all that. He said the people understand and know the dimensions of the economic problem and also understand the economic collapse and famine in the world, citing as an example those areas the economies of which have collapsed, such as the Soviet Union and East Europe.

On the argument by some quarters about his program in the next stage, President Mubarak said his program continues the achievements of the past 10 years: "freedom, in which we completely believe; democracy, which has become a way of life; freedom of opinion; and freedom of thought." [passage omitted]

Discusses Economic Change, Corruption

NC2007170993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today said the switch from a managed economy to a free one is necessary in view of current international changes.

Addressing a meeting of Egyptian university presidents, President Mubarak said no countries or grouping can have an economy apart from these changes. If they did, they would face many problems. He added: The transformation from the managed to the free economy faces several problems and extremely complicated economic issues that we in Egypt have confronted with positive ways and policies.

The president said: We must know that the bases of the free economy are production, work, and competition, which is familiar to market mechanisms. Under this economy, we must forget about clinging to government jobs, because investment is now in the hands of the private sector and government salaries have reached 14 billion Egyptian pounds a year. So, he added, encouraging investment, raising capital, and providing the right climate for the free economy and the infrastructure represent a basis for social development by creating job opportunities, raising the standard of living, and opening new fields and initiatives to citizens.

President Mubarak said: We in Egypt are in a much better condition than many countries that we regarded as an example and emulated economically but that are now enduring the most difficult economic conditions. He added: We will continue to suffer for the sake of achieving economic and social stability. Our course will continue, and we will achieve success, God willing.

On reports in some Western papers about corruption in Egypt, President Mubarak said Egypt is not corrupt, as some like to say. He said he challenges anyone to show one case of corruption that the state has ignored or covered up. He stressed there has been no cover-up of any case of corruption in Egypt, no matter who was involved. But, he added, there must be no defamation, self-inflicted damage, or haphazard accusations for one purpose or another. If there is corruption, we refer it to the judiciary. He said those who like to discuss corruption must fear God and correct themselves.

On his program for the next stage, President Mubarak said: My program is known; every Egyptian can feel it from the practices and reality and needs no proof or evidence.

He highlighted freedom of opinion and creativity. He said he never broke a pen, confiscated a piece of paper, or suppressed a view out of his belief that the national conscience governs every act. He said he seeks to achieve social justice for every Egyptian on Egypt's soil in every decision he makes. He went on: Since I assumed responsibility, the Egyptians have become deeply convinced that I respect the judiciary and abide by its fair rulings, which are the biggest guarantor of all the citizens' private and public rights.

Concluding, President Mubarak said: My effort to maintain Egypt's role and its Arab and Islamic responsibilities has been clear and is gaining in strength and impetus annually. This was the case before relations were restored with the Arab world and has been the case since then. He stressed that Egypt always supports the Arab causes and that this Egyptian stance will continue.

Wafd Party Rejects Mubarak Nomination for Third Term

NC2007142693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, leader of the Wafd Party, has addressed the following statement to the nation ahead of the end of President Husni Mubarak's second term in office:

Some 12 years have passed since President Mubarak took control and power after the podium incident [the assassination of al-Sadat]. When he assumed power, everyone pinned their hopes on his frank promises that the union between his position as president of the Republic and leader of the National Democratic Party, which his predecessor started, was a temporary and transitional stage. His excellency's statements during his first years in office stressed his determination to establish full democracy. He also stated that he will not renew his presidency for more than one term.

Years passed and the internal situation went from bad to worse. We see the president persisting in single-handed authority. He ignored the people's demands for political and constitutional reform, honest elections, and the cancellation of the emergency, notorious, and freedom-restricting laws. Things got worse. Foreign debts doubled and internal debts accumulated on top of that.

The Wafd Party repeatedly demanded political reform. It demanded a new constitution based on modern democratic principles, one that strengthens the authority of the

masses and truly makes them the source of all authority, restricts the powers of the ruler, and submits him to supervision and accountability.

Bribery is widespread, the only way to accomplish tasks and interests. Corruption infests every aspect of life.

The higher council of the Wafd Party decided at its last meeting to reject the renewal of a third term in office for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak because:

First, electing the president by having the People's Assembly nominate a candidate, then holding a public referendum for him without a rival, diminishes the role of the people in electing their president. The president should have taken the necessary measures to amend the Constitution so that the president is elected through direct, free, and popular elections. Every citizen should be given the opportunity to nominate himself for the candidacy.

Second, the Wafd Party believes the acceptable maximum number of terms in office should be two consecutive terms. Staying in office longer goes against the principles of a republican system.

Third, the president has not responded to the popular demands the opposition parties expressed and writers and intellectuals wrote about. These demands deal with finalizing the democratic march, asserting the sovereignty of the people, guaranteeing human rights, and protecting public funds from squandering and waste.

Fourth, the president insists on clinging to autocracy and controlling all the powers in his grip. He also turns to a Council of Ministers that has no relationship with the important political decisions that affect the life, livelihood, and security of each individual. On top of all this, the government has failed to solve the country's problems. During its term, problems of unemployment, housing, health care, inflation, and education have increased, as has recession.

Fifth, the president relies on a People's Assembly that is far removed from representing the masses. It is enough to note the decision by the Court of Cassation invalidating the membership of scores of members for forgery, cheating, and the abuse of power during the election process. During President Mubarak's presidency, the Higher Constitutional Court also ruled that two consecutive People's Assembly election results were null and void. The courts are still looking into an appeal contesting the current People's Assembly for the same reasons the previous two Assemblies were contested.

Sixth, the masses do not sign a blank paper. Whoever nominates himself president of these masses should present his program so that their confidence can be built on knowledge and according to a program that is presented.

This is a statement to the honorable nation published by the Wafd Party in keeping with its promise in these crucial and sensitive circumstances the Egyptian people are experience and out of its duty to God and the homeland.

[Signed] Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din

[In a related report, Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 12 July carries a report on pages 1 and 3 on a news conference by People's Assembly Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur in which he invites the members of the Assembly to attend a session on 21 July to discuss the proposal nominating the president.

[The report cites Surur saying 441 of the Assembly's 451 members signed a proposal nominating President Mubarak for a third term in office. Three Assembly seats are unoccupied due to deaths. Surur points out: "Only 10 deputies failed to sign the nomination proposal. Five represent the opposition National Progressive Unionist Grouping and five are independent members."]

Election of Vice President Urged

NC2107073693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jul 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The President and Vice President Must Be Elected"]

[Text] We must adopt a firm stance on the issue of having had no vice president for 12 years, especially when we are seeking political stability in the country. The absence of someone to step in when the president's post becomes vacant poses the prospect of a major political vacuum, which can have terrible consequences for the country's political stability and security.

If the president thinks there is no need for a vice president, this is a subject for debate. But if he says he can find no one sufficiently qualified to fill the post, this is an insult to the nation. It would indeed be proof that the entire governing regime has failed since 1952 to produce people who can bear responsibility. What credit can the revolution have if it has not produced one person who can fill the president's post? This is testimony that the revolution has failed to nurture the Egyptian man.

Is a person born to assume high office and undertake difficult tasks, or are his abilities honed by circumstances and experience of governing?

We ask President Mubarak: You were commander of the Air Force when President al-Sadat chose you as his vice president. Did you possess the abilities and expertise necessary for political work, or did you acquire this expertise by practicing the vice president's tasks, working with the president, and carrying out important missions that developed your leadership talents and proved your competence to assume the highest office?

We believe the president must be chosen in a free and popular election and must run on the same ticket as the candidate for vice president. This way, we can consolidate the democratic practice by letting both be freely elected. We will not then face the prospect of a political vacuum.

Brotherhood Spokesman on Terrorism, Mubarak Term

NC2007145793 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Jul 93 p 7

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by Misbah Qutb; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qutb] How do you view the issue of the national front [among political parties] in light of the recent official signals?

[Al-Hudaybi] The front's main purpose is to confront terrorism. I want to differentiate between terrorism, meaning the use of violence and acts of aggression against others, and extremism. Extremism involves various concepts and can come from various religious or nonreligious sources. Here, we must have some criteria. A front to confront extremism cannot succeed, because there are two methods of confrontation. The first involves security measures—the need for which there is no question. But there is a sharp disagreement about the procedural, judicial, and legal excesses—sometimes of an appalling nature—involved in these measures. The second method is cultural, social, economic, and political reform. We believe political reform is the key. Nobody could justify terrorism, whatever the socioeconomic conditions and motives, although their influence is undeniable.

[Qutb] You say there is no agreement on the criteria to define extremism. If so, then don't those who say that political reform must be postponed because the country has not agreed on acceptable criteria have a good argument?

[Al-Hudaybi] Differences are necessary, natural, and will never end. But political reforms are necessary to get people involved so that the real areas of disagreement can be defined. It must be agreed in advance to respect others' freedom and ideology and not to use violence or force as a means of dialogue and persuasion. [passage omitted]

[Qutb] Would you accept a victory by a secular party out of respect for democracy or because such a victory would be a fait accompli about which you could do nothing?

[Al-Hudaybi] It would be a fait accompli that we could not change, but do you want me to recognize it? No. I would try to take [power] from it and tell it that it is contrary to Islam.

[Qutb] Have you been approached about the front or about Mubarak's reelection recently?

[Al-Hudaybi] No. There were no contacts of any kind. [passage omitted]

[Qutb] What is your position on renewing Mubarak's mandate for a third term in office?

[Al-Hudaybi] Our opinion could be summed up in our adherence to the need to change the Constitution to guarantee political freedom and elections, which could ensure a change of power. We are not among the members of the People's Assembly tasked with nominating a president. The subject has been "settled." But when the time comes for a referendum [on the presidential nominee], we will see how to deal with it. [passage omitted]

[Qutb] We notice the Brotherhood alliances getting nearer the conservative forces in society, particularly al-Azhar. What is the basis of this tendency?

[Al-Hudaybi] I do not agree with this conclusion. As I told you, alliances require everyone to agree on the rules and basic principles. Anyone who advocates the basic principles of Islam could possibly reach an accord or alliance with us if he so wishes.

[Qutb] Can the Brotherhood set up alliances with the other political groups, like al-Jihad and others for example, if society's rejection of the ideological basis and political action of the Islamic traditional forces gets broader, as is the case now?

[Al-Hudaybi] There are basic and substantial ideological differences between our program and that of some groups you have mentioned. This rules out reaching an agreement with them as long as they continue to cling to their ideological concepts and program. [passage omitted]

[Qutb] You have always kept the public preoccupied with external problems such as Afghanistan, Jammu, Kashmir, and Sarajevo. While we strongly believe in the justice involved in these problems, why don't you begin with the basic issue, the Palestinian national issue?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is not true; it is unrealistic. Our program is based on national issues because we believe in and respect nationalism. Our movement is guided by national motives. We always give priority to national issues. We are also concerned with the Muslims' problems, especially if these problems are serious, such as the massacres in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the uprooting of the Palestinians and replacing them with Jews in diaspora. This affects our homeland; the Muslim and the Christian feel it.

[Qutb] We heard the Brotherhood will publish a new newspaper through the al-Ahrar Party. But this has not happened. We also heard that a newspaper will be published in the United States focusing on political Islam in the region, particularly in Egypt. Will you write in this paper?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is the first I have heard of this. But if this paper is published, we must see who finances it and who writes in it before we make any decision.

[Qutb] I learned that your supporters pay for their articles that appear in several papers. No need to name names here. What is your comment?

[Al-Hudaybi] We write in papers whose owners have identical tendencies. They benefit financially because the circulation of their papers increases. We are not ashamed to pay, because we need publications.

[Qutb] You always blame the Mosad for terrorist crimes.

[Al-Hudaybi] We do not declare anyone innocent and we do not accuse anyone. While we reject all forms of terrorism, we asked the state not to confine the accusation to one side, because this would not serve the public interest. Some of the recent crimes are incomprehensible and could not have been committed by an Egyptian.

Comments on Relations With Government

PM2107102093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 19-25 Jul 93 pp 42-45

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by 'Amr 'Abd-al-Sami' in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Sami'] You propose tackling religious extremism by means of moderate Islam. What about the possibility of allowing the Brotherhood to emerge as a group, not a party, to exercise this role?

[Al-Hudaybi] I do not believe that the regime in Egypt could allow any form of representation for the brothers. They [the regime] banned a newspaper called AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH, which we used to publish under a license from the Liberal Party. It was banned by a presidential decree—which confirms that we will not be allowed to emerge. If anyone believes that the authorities will allow the brothers to exist, he must ask: Will this existence be secret, public, or formal? And will we have freedom of expression and movement? If we have freedom of expression and movement, we will go to the public. We cannot exercise this right from a closed room.

Our existence will be merely symbolic, ineffective, and worthless unless we are allowed to express our views via the media: radio, television, or newspapers. So any claim of recognition achieves nothing. The existence of a party or a group without freedom is ideological existence. If we look at the existing parties and ask what they have achieved and offered, we will find them unable to do anything, and that includes the (ruling) National [Democratic] Party, which lacks influence in political life and takes no part in addressing any group of people, nor does it have any presence on the scene, even in the homeland! [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] What about your contacts with the state's departments in the context of your request that the Muslim Brotherhood group be allowed to resume its activities?

[Al-Hudaybi] No contacts were made with the state. Contacts were made with some security leaders. Whenever we raise our demands we hear the following: We are security men, not politicians. So we asked them to refer our demands to the appropriate political quarter to resolve the situation about which the security services are complaining.

['Abd-al-Sami'] What occasions brought you together with security leaders?

[Al-Hudaybi] Many occasions over a long period. For example, the launch of the Madrid (peace) negotiations, when protests were staged at the university. The security services summoned some of us. Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub asked us to meet him at His Eminence Shaykh al-Ghazali's office. We also met with the interior minister to contribute to calming conditions at the university.

['Abd-al-Sami'] And was the protest attributed to young Brothers?

[Al-Hudaybi] Yes. Our move was limited to opposing the Madrid conference, because the framework through which the peace process was launched destroys the Palestinian issue.

['Abd-al-Sami'] So you made contacts with the state.

[Al-Hudaybi] No. They were merely transient meetings to tackle a transient situation. And security leaders stressed that they are not concerned with politics, hence they will not help to achieve our demands. Contacts should be held with decisionmaking quarters.

President Mubarak is head of state and leader of the National Party. We are a political group from among the Egyptian people. We want him to see us. He reads about us in reports and has seen none of us. We want to talk to him, and we want him to talk to us. He might convince us of something we do not know, or we might convince him of something. We want to meet him so that he can see that we are ordinary people who talk and think politely and that we are not murderers. We do not know what they tell the president about us.

['Abd-al-Sami'] When a politician or a political group requests a meeting at such a level, they must have certain points to raise.

[Al-Hudaybi] What we have in mind is to talk to the president about the group and the truth about what was attributed to it historically and its real aims, method, and programs. Of course, we want to request from him that the state should not hold back official recognition of the group as an entity that has the right to direct action and to make contact with the masses, just like any other political group.

['Abd-al-Sami'] So what you have in mind is a group, not a party....

[Al-Hudaybi] I did not say group.

['Abd-al-Sami'] You said you wished to talk to the president about the group and its role.

[Al-Hudaybi] It is a word I like. What can I do if the state describes my activities as a political party? Do I tell the state that I reject its law?

['Abd-al-Sami'] So what does the Brotherhood want: a party or a group?

[Al-Hudaybi] What is required is for for us to exercise our known activities, and let them describe these activities the way they like. They tell us we are a group, and when we try to contest local elections conducted on the basis of a list, they tell us: You are not a party. And if we want to publish a newspaper they tell us: You are not a party; you cannot obtain a license. The same happens at public meetings and other times.

I want to exercise my rights. I will not pay attention to the name. True, I like the word "group," but I will not abolish its existence in order to keep the name. There is room for many things in the law: We could call it "The Muslim Brotherhood Group Party." [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] The issue of the contacts between the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and Egyptian Islamists emerged recently. The U.S. State Department denied any contacts between the embassy and the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group]. But it confirmed that the matter was confined to the Brotherhood—which you yourself confirmed. Does this dialogue reflect the Americans' desire to know you, or was it based on seeing you as a political alternative?

[Al-Hudaybi] The contacts with the Brotherhood did not exceed two or three meetings a year.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Over how many years?

[Al-Hudaybi] Over a period of five or six years. We told them they are working against their interests and against friendship with the Arab and Islamic peoples for the sake of the State of Israel, which violates right and freedom.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Who conducted the contacts from the U.S. Embassy? Did they ask you about the Brotherhood's position toward other local forces in Egypt?

[Al-Hudaybi] Some people said a counselor, and others said a second secretary. They asked about everything. They asked us our opinion on the secularists and whether we would agree to a secular party's assuming power. Questions like those asked by journalists. I received a journalist from THE SUNDAY TIMES recently. I told him: You seem to be worried very much about the secularists, not the Muslims who are being killed in Bosnia. We told one of the embassy's men: You are asking whether the Islamists would have cordial relations with the West if they reach power, when the more proper thing is for you to improve your relations with us. Do you expect to kill us while we applaud and kiss you? Improve your relations with us and your treatment of us. Then there will be no grudges between us.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Did the U.S. Embassy contact you as an official spokesman for the Brotherhood, or did it contact Mustafa Mashhur, the group's deputy guide? Did the questions deal with major issues?

[Al-Hudaybi] Sometimes they come to guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, to me, or to Mustafa Mashhur. We are very eager to explain to anyone who contacts us that we are not willing to enter into any relationship with a foreign quarter. This was said clearly to the Americans. And that whatever happens we will settle what is between us and the Egyptian Government, and that they have nothing to do with it.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Did they ask you about Islam's relationship with the extremist religious tendency?

[Al-Hudaybi] Yes, they asked us about our relationship with the extremist groups. They told us that sometimes we are all proponents of one idea and one aim.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Do you believe they are specialists in Egyptian affairs?

[Al-Hudaybi] Very much specialists. They have studied in all details of Egypt's life, its history, and the region's history.

['Abd-al-Sami'] What you said about the questions they asked you indicates that there is U.S. hostility toward you. Did you not feel, for example, that they were persuaded that moderate Islam could tackle the extremist religious tendency?

[Al-Hudaybi] They do not show their real identity at all. They are just collectors of information.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Did their position not develop as far as expressing opinions?

[Al-Hudaybi] I do not accept that from them.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Did any of them explain his opinion of the other political forces in Egypt, like the Marxists, nationalists, and others?

[Al-Hudaybi] In these matters, they advise us to accept all of them, because they are the sons of a democratic society. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] The striking point is that foreigners propose one idea about the need to find political representation for moderate Islam in Egypt. What is your interpretation?

[Al-Hudaybi] I believe that the world is greatly concerned about Egypt and its political stability. Everyone asks what change could take place and how. They probably have information we do not.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Do you still demand a meeting with the president of the Republic, and have any contacts been made along these lines?

[Al-Hudaybi] Yes, I still demand a meeting, and so does the guide. We have submitted many requests. I cannot remember when the last one was submitted.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Have any new contacts been made since the media clamor over your contacts with the U.S. Embassy?

[Al-Hudaybi] No. The last contacts were made during the Gulf war. I hope you will not use the word contacts, because it gives the impression that there is a relationship, when there is not. I consider our meetings with the embassy's men like any meetings with journalists: They ask and we answer. In some issues it is our duty to tell the Americans our opinion, like our position on the Palestinian issue, in order to show the extent of the aggression of U.S. policy and our feeling of oppression. Thus I have not held talks with them, as I have no powers to do so.

['Abd-al-Sami'] When some people talk about legitimate representation for the moderate Islamic tendency, this should be coupled with a demand that this tendency provide contemporary formulas to tackle all the issues of Egyptian society. Are you capable of doing that, or have you bound yourself by the ideological and jurisprudential aspects?

[Al-Hudaybi] We are bound by the ideological aspect. As for questions relating to domestic reforms, we have our own principles, even though there are various views inside the Islamic community itself. It has to do with interpretation based on interests, as in the case of industry. The state is transferring industrial installations to private ownership. Who can guarantee that the government will dispose of the establishments to be sold in the right way? There is also the education issue and the attempt to erase its Islamic character. This question is determined by the omitted pages.

['Abd-al-Sami'] The proposal as regards amending educational curricula is to exclude whatever could lead to extremist thinking.

[Al-Hudaybi] And what do they think will lead to this thinking? Explaining Islam's position on the Jews, the prophet's (peace upon him) wars with the Jews, or the assertion that there is infidelity and belief? Is this extremist thinking? Are we not allowed to mention the word infidelity?

['Abd-al-Sami'] Let us go back to the point with which we began the interview. Do you expect the state to allow you any legitimate presence?

[Al-Hudaybi] I do not see any indication in that direction. In fact, I see determination from some governmental circles to get rid of the Brotherhood completely. It is very easy to plan something of this kind. 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah and Rif'at al-Sa'id are pushing in that direction. Even Khalid Muhyi-al-Din has joined them.

['Abd-al-Sami'] But these do not represent the state.

[Al-Hudaybi] They are "instigating" the state, and people are listening to them. And some state organs are in favor of that. There is another tendency which does not believe the Brotherhood should be gotten rid of. It believes that Islam is the safety valve that makes the people balanced and enables them to maintain their vitality and spirit.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Which of the two tendencies is stronger?

[Al-Hudaybi] The hard-line tendency is stronger. And regrettably, terrorist and violent incidents are giving it the opportunity. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] What is your opinion of the implementation of the death sentences, and do they constitute a deterrent for the extremists?

[Al-Hudaybi] Military courts are primarily emergency courts in which there are no sufficient guarantees to make people feel they are fair courts. A military judge cannot be as fair as the Court of Cassation, nor does he understand the law as the ordinary judiciary does. There are are courts of cassation and constitutional courts to which people can refer to appeal against or object to sentences. This is not available in the military judiciary.

In military courts, procedures are conducted quickly and the verdict is also passed quickly without giving the lawyers the chance to read and study the documents of the case and hear the witness' testimonies and cross-examine them. The state's resorting to the military judiciary to try the extremists was interpreted as dealing with the problem without examining its real causes. This is why the confrontation will continue between the government and the extremists as long as the causes of extremism are still there. It is probably a temporary deterrent, but a radical remedy is a must. There must be political reform based on freedoms, respect for human rights and human dignity, free and sound elections, a parliamentary council that expresses the people's will and is capable of fighting corruption and deterring the corrupt, and peaceful power rotation among the parties. Peaceful action is the objective. If this door is closed, people will despair and resort to violence and extremism.

But as some people used arms against the innocent, a security confrontation is a must... but it should be controlled and away from hostility, physical liquidation, or violation of the law.

['Abd-al-Sami'] What is your opinion of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?

[Al-Hudaybi] There is a media campaign in the United States which has helped him to emerge. The truth is that he had followers in Egypt before he left for the United States, but the U.S. media made him more famous. However, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's strength and influence cannot enable him to instigate the people against the regime or to lead a popular revolution. Some people liken him to Khomeyni, but I believe that there is a big difference between the two.

Divisions in al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah Reported

PM2007130993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jul 93 p6

['Adil Dasuqi report: "Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah Split Into Five Groups"]

[Text] Cairo—According to responsible Egyptian security sources, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], considered one of the largest radical religious groups, has recently begun to suffer imbalance and division, the worst since its appearance about 20 years ago.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, the sources attributed this to the following factors:

1. The detention of its leader Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in an American prison recently on the charge of falsifying official documents and suspicion of involvement in inciting supporters to blow up vital installations in New York.

2. Egypt's official request for the extradition of 'Abd-al-Rahman after the al-Fayyum Higher State Security Court issued a warrant for his arrest to stand trial, along with 48 of his followers, on charges of causing riots, resisting the authorities, and attacking security officials, and the possibility that he might face a prison sentence if he is found guilty of these charges.

3. The recent execution of nine al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah extremists convicted by military courts on various charges, including attacks on foreign tourists and the murder of a police officer.

4. The Egyptian Government's determination to eradicate all roots of extremism and restore respect for constititonal legitimacy and rule of law by clamping down on the activities, public and secret, of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah members through firm control of all the country's exit points, especially the one at al-Sallum, on the Egyptian-Libyan border.

5. The expectation that severe sentences, including the death sentence, will be passed against prominent members of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in the cases of the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and writer Faraj Fudah. They include Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, 'Izzat al-Salamuni,

Mamduh 'Ali Yusuf, 'Ala' Abu-al-Nasr Tantawi, and Muhammad Ahmad al-Najjar.

6. Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's loss of much of its popularity after the recent Cairo explosions, which claimed the lives of many innocent citizens.

The sources say that the circumstances that al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has experienced and is still experiencing have resulted in its division into five internal and external groups, as follows:

1. The "Turah prison group," which includes all the members of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and its military wing who are in the Liman Turah prison, south of Cairo. Its strength lies in the following factors:

- It is led by Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, commander of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's military wing.
- It issues instructions directly to its followers on assassinations and attacks on tourist centers.
- It is the group that theorizes and reconciles the different views of its leadership and rank and the members of the other groups held in the same prison, especially members of the Returnees from Afghanistan Organization, the Islamic Conquest Vanguards, al-Jihad, Those Delivered From Hell, and al-Shawqiyyun. This is reflected in internal organizational bulletins. One is called "A Word of Justice," and another one for the masses is called "al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah."

2. "Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah of Asyut," which includes the group's leading members in Upper Egypt and which insists on proving its existence through major acts of violence with immediate claims of responsibility for such acts, including attacks on tourist centers and public establishments and assassination of security commanders. This group has two very important characteristics, namely, its ability to arm itself immediately through contacts with major arms and explosives dealers and its control of information.

3. "The Peshawar Group," which includes a large number of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's fugitive members who at present move between Peshawar in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Its prominent members include Mustafa Hamzah and Shawqi al-Islambuli (both sentenced to death), as well as Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim and Tal'at Yasin Hammam.

This group is characterized by its high level of military and intelligence training, the death sentences passed on some of its members, and its telephone instructions to its members ordering them to commit acts of violence and assassination—the latest such act was the attempt on the life of Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. It also has close external contacts with some sympathetic regimes and is known for its easy movement between various states using false passports.

4. "The London Group," which includes a large number of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah who recently managed to escape from Pakistan after the strict security measures introduced against them in coordination with the Egyptian regime.

This group's importance lies in the fact that it includes a large number of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's shura council and receives foreign funds, which are considered the lifeline of the Group as a whole. It also issues bulletins abroad to prove its existence and exchange views. These bulletins are sent home for information and education.

5. "The Brooklyn Group," which is now in the United States and in direct contact with its spiritual leader, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

This group's importance lies in the fact that it derives its strength from the current international media attention, positive and negative, focused on 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, and the fact that it gets a major part of the material aid given to al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah as a whole.

Signs of these divisions were recently evident in the following:

1. The reluctance to issue statements on some important incidents such as attacks on tourist centers.

2. Disagreement regarding the organization's responsibility for explosions. While one of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's factions claimed that Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service, was responsible, another faction claimed that "unknown internal circles" were responsible.

3. Insistence on issuing statements giving the place of issue at the end to specify the source (Peshawar, Brooklyn, Asyut).

4. Disagreement regarding definition of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's position on the question of dialogue with the authorities. While the Turah group, which is led by 'Abd-al-Ghani, supported such a dialogue, the Peshawar group, which is led by al-Islambuli, opposed it and regarded it as an act of "treason and reneging."

Security Forces Detain 70 for Attack on General

NC2007184493 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 20 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces have detained 70 Muslim fundamentalist suspects for an armed attack in Cairo that left four people dead and four wounded, police said Tuesday [20 July].

They said the arrests took place both in Cairo and the southern provinces of Aswan and Asyut.

The underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack on the car of an army officer mistaken for General Ahmad 'Abdallah, chairman of military courts which have condemned several Islamic militants to death.

Two assailants, a police captain and a passer-by, died in a gunbattle.

The militants' campaign against the secular government has killed more than 170 people since March 1992, including tourists and Coptic Christians, according to an AFP toll.

Weapons Bound for Islamic Groups Reported Seized

NC2107113593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 19 Jul 93 p 8

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Egyptian security organs have seized weapons on the Tabah road in Sinai. The weapons were being smuggled from occupied Palestine to Egypt and were destined for the Islamic groups fighting to topple the Egyptian regime.

The Egyptian security organs' sweeps of Islamic group strongholds have repeatedly confiscated Israeli weapons, including Uzi machine guns and antipersonnel mines.

'Terrorist' Hanged in Cairo Prison 20 Jul

NC2007202493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Terrorist Mursi Ramadan Muhammad, convicted in the assassination last year of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ala'-al-Din of the State Security Investigation, was hanged today.

Ramadan and five other terrorists planned and carried out the assassination of the officer. The Higher State Security Court passed the death sentence on him in May. Two others were sentenced to life imprisonment and hard labor. The remaining three were acquitted.

The hanging at the South Cairo Appeal Prison was attended by the Turah Prison chief, the south Cairo deputy prosecutor, and the prison doctor.

Columnist Critical Of U.S. Policy on World Crises

NC2007122493 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 14

["An Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] U.S. Middle East policy is incomprehensible. First, the United States spends millions to save the Somalis from starvation, then it strikes them with bombs. In this way, people forget what the Americans did and remember their crimes.

They invited the Arabs and the Israelis to agree and promised to try to resolve the conflict and establish peace. Later, they claimed they had nothing to do with the conference other than give advice from a distance.

They punished Iraq because it attacked a Muslim Arab country, then they allow another Muslim country to be annihilated by the Serbs and even prevent it from defending itself. Then, they advise it to accept division into three weak and insignificant statelets that a police constable could occupy.

We believe the United States is leading the world in a strange way. It now makes improvised decisions and mistakes. It seemed sensible when the Soviet Union was competing with it, but when the Soviet Union collapsed, it lost its senses and stopped caring whether it issued contradictory resolutions that first please the Arabs, then anger them. It gets angry at Muslim Somalia for attacking 23 Muslim Pakistanis. Then, it gets angry about the aggressors and kills 83 Somalis in one raid.

The United States that dissolved the Soviet Union and communism is not the same one that cannot solve the Bosnia problem or that stands dumbfounded before the Somalia issue.

Those who signaled the United States to strike Iraq with missiles to punish it for not obeying UN resolutions betrayed and fooled it. Punishment alone does not bring peace to the world, nor is it logical for the United States to fight wars with Libya, Somalia, Iraq, and Bosnia all at the same time.

Libya

UN Envoy Denies Israeli Mediation Sought Over Crisis

NC2107081093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Second of an unspecified number of installments of a telephone interview with 'Ali al-Hudayri, permanent representative to the United Nations, in New York, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Ambassador, the UN Security Council will review the sanctions on Libya in August. No solution to your crisis with the West has been reached. Do you expect one soon? Is anyone mediating? What is the situation?

[Al-Hudayri] We believe there must a solution for every problem, no matter how complicated. Although this crisis is complicated, Libya's flexibility, cooperative spirit, and respect for all parties will be helpful. We believe a solution can be found, because some friends, particularly Egypt and President Husni Mubarak, other Arab leaders, and several other peace-loving countries, have demonstrated their good offices. Libya has shown no intransigence and has not refused to seek a formula that will enable the concerned parties to end this problem. The Libyan proposal to hold a discussion with the other parties can contribute to a solution that will safeguard all parties and safeguard international law. If these things do not happen, a solution might prove difficult to find. But we are still trying to find a solution, because we want to spare the region any further tension and problems.

[Abu-al-Majd] Ambassador al-Hudayri, how do you explain the withdrawal of Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department's former legal adviser, from his contract as legal adviser to Libya on the Lockerbie issue?

[Al-Hudayri] I believe this is another example of something we have been warning about from the start. We said then that even if Libya—for the sake of argument—agrees to the individuals' [the two Lockerbie suspects] trial in the United States or Britain, they will not have a fair and honest trial, because of media and political pressure. I believe this affair illustrates the following: If a lawyer such as this one could not face the pressure, what will be the fate

of the two suspected Libyan nationals if they are tried—we say this for the sake of argument—in U.S. courts? I believe these pressures are the result of a mobilization of public opinion and political hints. Such pressures were imposed on this lawyer to make him abandon the case. This is further proof that the United States and Britain do not qualify as venues for the trial.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency, some circles have said Libya is trying to seek rapprochement with Israel in an attempt to solve the problem with the United States. How true are these reports?

[Al-Hudayri] Everyone knows we do not cooperate with the Zionist entity. Our stance on this issue is also known. I do not want to comment on baseless reports. We called on the United States, Britain, and the other parties concerned to hold negotiations with us. We do not need to use other parties with whom we have no relations in this respect. It is illogical to pursue this line when we have no relations with the Zionist entity.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador, the Arab public asks why the United Nations insists on applying sanctions to Arab sides while it does not apply sanctions under other circumstances?

[Al-Hudayri] I believe this is a good question. I also believe we must look for an answer to it. I think the Arab sides have always been the ones to pay, either in Somalia, Iraq, in Libya, or anywhere else.

I strongly believe this is due to some Western countries being in almost full control of the UN policy. Those countries are also exploiting the so-called international legitimacy to justify the resolutions. Why are they doing this? I really don't know. But this is the reality. It seems the Security Council was established only to impose sanctions on the Arab countries, particularly after the Gulf war.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency, how do you see the Arab role in confronting this issue? Here I mean the Arab League and the role played by Egypt and the Arab Maghreb Union. Has this achieved something to help Libya ride out the crisis?

[Al-Hudayri] Doubtless, the Arab League, particularly the secretary general, has made strenuous and sincere efforts. We must not forget the efforts made by the Arab seven-member committee and some Arab countries. We thank all these bodies. I believe all these have helped greatly to get views closer despite the complication of the problem. We also believe that continuing such efforts is important to work out a solution because this would help us all to focus on more important problems, whether in the Arab region or elsewhere. I think efforts continue to contain this problem and reach a solution that will satisfy all sides.

Opposition Group Leader Views Situation, Goals

PM2007111393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 93 p 6

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the Libyan National Salvation Front, by 'Ali al-Salih in London; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Salih] What are the new developments on the Libyan scene, which has accustomed us to a lot of surprises?

[Al-Muqaryif] There is nothing new in relation to the Libyan people's suffering. Their suffering is continuing and has assumed new dimensions following President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's recent decisions concerning public posts, the cancellation of salaries, laying off of thousands of employees, and the transfer of government departments to Surt and the Army General Command to al-Jufrah. This is in addition to the deterioration—indeed nonexistence—of health, education, and other public facilities.

What is new is the existence of numerous indications of the worsening of the dispute between al-Qadhdhafi and what is left of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. There is evidence that al-Qadhdhafi is seeking to hold its members fully responsible for the state of chaos and ruin the country has experienced during his 24 years of rule.

[Al-Salih] What does al-Qadhdhafi aim to achieve from these steps, which are bound to provoke resentment and indignation against him inside the ruling establishment?

[Al-Muqaryif] His aim is to push the country to the brink of the abyss, so that he can present himself as the savior of the situation and blame the other council members for abusing power.

[Al-Salih] But in such conditions how can al-Qadhdhafi present himself as a savior, as you say?

[Al-Muqaryif] Al-Qadhdhafi is looking for a way out of this problem by two routes: The first relates to the past and the second to the future. The way out relating to the past is to acknowledge the deterioration in conditions and in the situation the country is experiencing all all levels—political, economic, and other—and laying the blame, as I said earlier, on the council members. As for the way out with the future in view, it is to portray himself as a savior by proposing a fictitious program for the reform process.

Al-Qadhdhafi will propose—this is speculation—a draft constitution based on the Green Book on the basis of which he will invite the various political forces inside and outside the country, including the opposition, to participate in the search for a solution to the crisis, and probably in government.

[Al-Salih] Does that mean that there are indications that such invitations could be sent to the opposition forces?

[Al-Muqaryif] I do not rule that out. Indications of that are numerous, through both his direct and indirect media. Among the measures the regime has taken recently are moves by some regional parties and opposition elements which have links with these parties. [sentence as published]

[Al-Salih] What are that plan's chances of success?

[Al-Muqaryif] We believe that that plan is doomed to failure, not only because al-Qadhdhafi has not changed, but because we believe that the plan will be merely a maneuver. There are other reasons, namely that all that al-Qadhdhafi has offered and is going to offer will not

provide a satisfactory answer to the real devastation inflicted on Libya during the years of his rule, nor will it compensate for this devastation, even if he offers those closest to him as a scapegoat. This is one point. The second point is that his other comrades in the council will not agree to be held responsible. The third point is that the Libyan opposition, first and foremost the [Libyan National Salvation] Front, will not respond to this theatrical gesturing because it knows what the motives are and because it insists that thinking about Libya's future must focus on getting rid of the entire regime, on the grounds that it is the main culprit in what has afflicted Libya.

Fourth, the Libyan delegation's visit to occupied Jerusalem on the pretext of visiting the holy places, as the regime claimed, created an atmosphere outside and inside Libya of condemnation of al-Qadhdhafi, calling for an end to his rule and rejecting his remaining in power in any form.

Al-Qadhdhafi's plan does not include a solution to the crux of the real crisis, resulting from Security Council Resolution 731 (which imposes an air blockade on Libya because of its implication in the incident involving a U.S. Pan Am plane blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, and his refusal to hand over two Libyans accused by Britain and the United States of involvement in the incident).

[Al-Salih] What motivated al-Qadhdhafi to decide to send the so-called "pilgrim delegation" to Jerusalem, especially at that critical stage in the peace process between the Arab and the Israelis?

[Al-Muqaryif] Since his regime has been engaged in the suffocating political crisis imposed on it by the Security Council resolutions, al-Qadhdhafi has tried by every means to extricate himself from this crisis. He has not asked anyone about the limits to the price he is willing to pay to extricate himself from it.

He has scorned all Libyan economic interests, offering them cheap to any broker expressing willingness to help to find a way out of his crisis. What is more, he thought about using the Palestine issue to secure this way out, namely by expressing good intentions to the Jewish lobby in the United States. He sent the so-called "pilgrim delegation" to Jerusalem as a signal from him to the United States and the Jewish lobby of his willingness to change his position on the Palestinian issue, hoping that this change would influence Israel's position and thus certainly help influence U.S. policy toward him.

Actually, as a result of the state of despair he is experiencing, he dealt with this issue with complete contempt for the Libyans and Muslims' feelings, creating a hostile atmosphere.

It is clear that al-Qadhdhafi failed with the precious gift that he offered Israel to persuade it to support him, despite Israel's unrestrained exploitation of the visit. And the U.S. Administration showed no interest in this step—which worsened his crisis.

[Al-Salih] Do you have any information about contacts between Libyan officials and Jewish or Israeli figures other than those revealed recently?

[Al-Muqaryif] We have always felt there are contacts between Al-Qadhdhafi's men and Israel. We received information last September about a meeting between Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm and an Israeli Embassy representative in Cairo. We also have information that Sulayman al-Shuhumi, undersecretary of the Unity Ministry, visited Israel before the "delegation's" visit.

[Al-Salih] Do you believe that al-Qadhdhafi could go so far as to visit Israel, as some people believe?

[Al-Muqaryif] I rule that out, because al-Qadhdhafi feels that the "delegation's" visit to Jerusalem failed and provoked reactions different from what had been sought. For this reason he will move sluggishly and hesitantly on this issue, because he has begun to feel the impact of Arab and Islamic reaction to this step.

[Al-Salih] What is the Front's position on the Cairo 29th African summit's resolutions on Libya?

[Al-Muqaryif] Those resolutions are an African courtesy prompted by some circumstantial factors related to the timing and venue of the conference, and the Libyan people have paid a heavy price for them from their treasury.

We are certain that this courtesy will not change the reality of al-Qadhdhafi's record against Africa. Nor will it have any effect on the world's view of his regime. It expressed this view in the two Security Council resolutions and the sanctions imposed on Libya.

[Al-Salih] But the attempts did succeed in preventing the sanctions from being stepped up, albeit only for a while. Does this not indicate that some success has been achieved in the attempt to get out of the crisis?

[Al-Muqaryif] The fact that escalation was averted is attributable not to al-Qadhdhafi's or any mediator's success, but rather to the development of certain international conditions such as Russian President Boris Yeltsin's crisis and the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis.

I believe that the conviction of the main parties in the Lockerbie crisis is still the same. A look at the statements made by the officials concerned in this crisis causes us not to rule out either an escalation or even the imposition of new sanctions, when the sanctions are reexamined, if the regime does not comply with the international resolutions.

[Al-Salih] Do you not believe that escalating the sanctions means further suffering for the Libyan people whom, as you say, you are seeking to relieve of their crises and problems?

[Al-Muqaryif] There is no disagreement among us Libyans over the question that our people has been suffering for 23 years. Disagreements increase their suffering, especially as al-Qadhdhafi is trying to exploit them and pin the blame on the forces abroad with a view to directing their indignation at those forces.

Nevertheless, we believe that the Libyan people welcome these sanctions if they are certain to secure conditions that enable them to get rid of the regime. We believe that continuing and increasing the sanctions would have a great

moral impact as regards weakening the regime, aggravating its crisis, and pushing the Libyan people to move against it.

[Al-Salih] What is the Front's program to confront the regime?

[Al-Muqaryif] Since its establishment the Front has proposed a struggle program to achieve its primary aim, which is to topple the regime. Although this program has been exposed to various foreign and internal pressures, the Front continues to adhere to its program and principal aim. But this does not mean that the Front is unwilling to deal with local and foreign factors. In fact is it is completely willing to respond to and deal with any proposals guaranteed to serve the achievement of the ultimate aim—the regime's overthrow.

I would like to recall that in May 1989 the Front presented an initiative in which it urged what is left of the RCC to make a move toward demanding that al-Qadhdhafi relinquish power and to assume responsibility for a transitional period, during which it would pledge to restore constitutional legitimacy to the country.

And through its national assembly—at its third session held in April 1992 in Texas, United States—the Front renewed its call to the Council members to rally around this program and urge al-Qadhdhafi to relinquish power.

[Al-Salih] Have any of the RCC members you talk about responded to this call?

[Al-Muqaryif] There are indications confirming that the atmosphere is favorable for some RCC members to respond—for a number of reasons, most importantly that they sense the danger surrounding the country in general and themselves in particular as a result of the Lockerbie crisis and al-Qadhdhafi's method of handling it. This is in addition to al-Qadhdhafi's attempt to hold them fully responsible and his complete reliance on the tribal factor (elements of his own tribe) in conducting government.

Morocco

King Hassan Message on Talks With Polisario

LD2107024493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2315 GMT 20 Jul 93

["Text of the royal message" from King Hassan II on the meeting with members of the Polisario and UN official Sahabzada Ya'qub Khan in Laayoune on 19 July; read by Cheikh Larabas Maa El Ainin, deputy head of the Moroccan delegation, in the studio—live]

[Text] Text of the royal message:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, sends you his greetings and affection and reiterates that all Saharans are his sons and that none of them are disobedient as he expresses the hope that anyone who has gone astray will return to the right path.

Because he is everyone's father, his care extends to all, without discrimination, and his forgiveness reaches so far as to make him forget any crime that has been committed. His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, is a man of dialogue, which he prefers. The military action that Morocco was forced to undertake was no more than legitimate defense. It was not at all in the aim of aggression, nor was it motivated by revenge or hatred.

Morocco is distinguished by the multiplicity and diversity of its dialects, customs, traditions, and dress. These characteristics mark each one of its regions and make it a cohesive and harmonious state. For that reason, the Constitution, which is the Kingdom's supreme law, makes provisions for regionalism. The Sahara is one of those components. Therefore, our master, may God make him sublime, symbol of the Kingdom's unity and guarantor of its continuity, was of the opinion that the implementation of regionalism should begin in the Saharan provinces, as he had previously affirmed to members of the Royal Consultative Council on Saharan Affairs when he received them at the royal palace in Skhirat on Wednesady, 16 September 1992.

Our triumphant master insists on the importance of the time factor and on making the best use of it. He works to combine efforts to construct this region and to secure further progress and prosperity for it. Although the essential infrastructure is in place in those regions, a gigantic effort still awaits us. His honorable majesty, may God make him sublime, has ready-made plans for developing those regions. However, that requires energies to be combined and that can only be achieved with serious work within the framework of stability and tranquillity.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, reaffirms to you his preoccupation with the future of his Saharan sons, wherever they are, and cannot accept seeing them live in destitution or humiliation.

The message with which our triumphant master entrusted members of the Royal Consultative Council on Saharan Affairs and which he ordered them to convey to you, includes the aforementioned points, in addition to an invitation to you to contribute any vision, idea, suggestion, or whatever you deem appropriate, to the development of this region within Moroccan sovereignty and territorial integrity, for regionalism is likely to absorb all constructive views that contribute to the progress and prosperity of this region, which is an indivisible part of the Kingdom of Morocco, including the preservation of its specificities, customs, and traditions.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, concluded his message quoting his ancestor the Prophet: Deeds are what you intend them to be and each man will find what he had intended to.

Our brothers, we will be trustworthy in reporting your ideas and suggestions to his honorable majesty. May you have God's peace, mercy, and blessings.

Delegation Head: Sahara Irrevocably Part of Country

LD2107030093 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2315 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Statement by Dr. Biadallah Mohamed Echeikh, head of delegation to Laayoune for talks with members of the Polisario and UN official Sahabzada Ya'qub Khan, in the studio—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

A Moroccan delegation consisting of the members of the Royal Consultative Council for Sahara Affairs and assisted by two senior officials, Ahmed Senoussi and Mohamed Azmi, has gone recently to Laayoune to meet a Polisario Saharan delegation.

The meeting took place as a result of an initiative by His Majesty King Hassan II and under his august directives.

Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, last month addressed a message to his Algerian counterpart, Redha Malek, in which he proposed arranging a meeting with the Saharans to discuss their joint future. This was in response to the Algerian minister's request that Morocco launch an initiative to ease the tension and to open a dialogue to bring about positive factors in the future.

The Algerian officials welcomed the proposal and the idea of the meeting was agreed. The participants were given the freedom to choose between Laayoune and Geneva as a venue for the meeting. Laayoune was chosen.

We went to Laayoune with a clear aim, determined by his majesty when he received us.

From the beginning, it was out of the question to discuss the procedures for implementing the referendum on self-determination, which remain under the authority of the UN secretary general alone.

Therefore anything that comes under the authority of the UN secretary general or his special representative cannot be discussed in our meetings. Definitely, this was not what our Saharan brothers of the Polisario thought.

In connection with what concerns us, we have strongly adhered to our firm stance, which has not changed. Our mission did not involve any ambiguity and was, at the same time, a clear and obvious mission that, for us, was on the verge of having a holy character.

The issue was connected with informing our brothers that the Moroccan character of the Sahara cannot be a subject for compromise. As long as his majesty has announced that the homeland is forgiving and merciful, it remains for them to study the best and most honorable way to return to the homeland, since the Moroccan character of the Sahara has become an irrevocable matter. Moroccan sovereignty, which extends from Tangier to Bouira, is an indivisible whole.

His majesty has incorporated in the revised constitution the notion of regionalism, and the division of Kingdom territory will reflect that.

His majesty has more than once announced that the implementation of regional policy will start with the Saharan provinces.

This is what we tried to explain to our brothers, who are still on the other side. We hope that the future will bring them back to the correct path. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Papers View Laayoune Talks, Criticize Polisario

LD2107131593 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, July 21 (MAP)—The meeting that gathered in Laayoune a delegation from the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs and a Sahrawi delegation from Tindouf was largely commented Tuesday [20 July] by the Moroccan media.

L'OPINION daily of the Istiqlal Party writes that the Polisario is once again trying to prevent the holding of the referendum and hinders any move in this respect. It is not astonishing to see the Polisario mercenaries who were behind the failure of another meeting in Geneva between heads of tribes, try to torpedo the encounter of Laayoune, says the editorialist. The daily renews that Morocco cannot hold negotiations with a puppet and phantom entity. "The Moroccan citizenship of the Sahara cannot be discussed and its integration in the homeland is irreversible and is not subject to any bargain or concessions."

On its part, AL BAYANE daily criticizes the 'inexplicable silence' which prevailed on the Laayoune meeting. The PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism] daily which acknowledges that the meeting has to be behind doors deplores the total blackout imposed on journalists who only have non-confirmed statements and assertions which are soon denied.

For ANNIDAL ADIMOUCRATI daily of the National Democrat Party, whatever is the nature of the meeting, the important is that it gathered Moroccans sharing authenticity, land and the principle of allegiance which represent the fundamental components of the country. The daily recalls that Morocco has several times expressed total readiness to cooperate with the international community and put an end to this artificial problem created by a small group of separatists in connivance with enemies of our territorial integrity.

For AL ALAM Daily, our Saharan provinces were recovered in accordance with a ruling of the International Court of Justice, the Moroccan-Spanish accord of Madrid which has the same power as an international treaty and in the frame of the kingdom's struggle to perfect its territorial integrity, facts which give to this process due international legality. The AL ALAM editorialist also recalls how the Polisario delegates have in the past sabotaged other unarranged meetings.

King Receives Message From Kuwaiti Amir

LD2007172293 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpt] At the Royal Palace in Skhirat this afternoon, His Majesty King Hassan II, who was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Atiq, private adviser to His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait. 'Atiq was accompanied by Ahmad 'Uthman al-Murjanis, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Rabat. During this audience, the Kuwaiti envoy delivered a private message to his majesty the king from the amir of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister on Ties With Egypt, Cabinet Reshuffle, Elections

NC2107110393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0907 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Information Minister Staff Brigadier General Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman said the meeting of Presidents 'Umar al-Bashir and Husni Mubarak on the sidelines of the recent OAU summit in Cairo removed much of the tension in bilateral relations.

In remarks published in today's issue of the weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH, the Sudanese minister said the meeting paved the way to solving outstanding problems and was a good beginning for the two countries to overcome their differences.

The Sudanese information minister said the recent cabinet reshuffle and constitutional amendments in Sudan were logical in view of the change in the Sudanese system of government, the introduction of federalism, and the increased power granted to the various governorates.

Minister Sulayman said the role of the Revolutionary Command Council has ended and its presence is symbolic, a mere formality, as its legislative powers have been given to the National Council and its executive powers to the cabinet.

The Sudanese information minister said presidential elections will soon be held in Sudan, adding that this issue "depends on developments in the country."

The Sudanese minister said earlier talks with the rebels in the south achieved some progress and paved the way for negotiations. He pointed out that no final statement was signed. The Sudanese Government awaits the setting of a new date for the Abuja talks, he said.

Radio Reports Rebel Admission of Cease-Fire Violation

EA2007220093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] In a statement issued in Nairobi, the rebel movement has admitted its violation of the cease-fire, saying that it had a big battle with the people's armed forces on 16 July in the (Kit) and (Kadroken) area, 30 km south of Juba. The battle lasted six hours. Garang's wing of the rebel movement (?went as far as) calling on the Nasir group to join the fighting, which confirms the rebel's lack of commitment and seriousness toward the cease-fire.

It is worth mentioning that the rebel movement has been targeting the administrative movements of the armed forces and relief convoys to create an atmosphere of confusion.

Kuwait

Government States Policy on 'Indirect' Boycott of Israel

LD2007142493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1327 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jul (KUNA)—The National Assembly today referred a government statement on the Arab boycott of Israel to the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee. At its session presided over by Ahmad al-Sa'dun, the Assembly deemed it sufficient to refer the statement without debate. The statement was submitted by Second Deputy Prime Minister and Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al- Rawdan. Here follows the text of the Government statement submitted to the National Assembly:

In light of what is being reiterated these days in the various media about the attitude of the State of Kuwait vis-a-vis the boycott of Israel—a matter which led to domestic reaction and raised questions about the extent of Kuwait's commitment to the provisions of this boycott—the Government wishes to make the following explanations:

First: The Government of the State of Kuwait is still committed to the provisions of Law No. 21 for 1964 regarding the unified law on the boycotting of Israel, and the general principles, which implement this Law, and which originally were the recommendations and general principles issued by the conferences of the liaison officers of the boycotting offices in the Arab states, which were endorsed by the Arab League Council. In this connection it is noteworthy that Kuwait is regarded as one of the Arab states most committed to these decisions and principles. Kuwait will not allow itself to violate any of the laws that have been agreed on, but movement will be within the legal framework which is compatible with the national and pan-Arab interest.

Second: With regard to the indirect boycott, the consequences of the Iraqi aggression demanded that the rules governing the dealing with some of the companies in the boycott of foreign companies list be reexamined in the light of considerations that concern the national interest and Kuwait's dire needs for the products of those companies whether in the sphere of defense and reconstruction or those that are linked to strategic aspects.

Third: If the new developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Middle East peace conference have prompted some countries of the world—for the sake of this new turning point—to call on the two sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict to take positive steps to push the peace negotiations toward progress by looking into lifting the Arab boycott and in return ending the Israeli policy of settlements building, the Government of the State of Kuwait confirms its full commitment to its pan-Arab responsibilities and its adherence to the provisions of the law and principles of the boycott in accordance with its belief in not taking unilateral steps outside the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council group and the Arab group.

The statement added that it is worth mentioning that the Arab boycott of Israel is being carried out in three steps. The first step is the direct boycott of Israel in all aspects, the second is the special boycott of companies that are related to Israel, and the third step is the special boycott of foreign companies that have ties with other foreign companies that are linked with Israel. The second and third steps are called the indirect boycott.

Therefore, the government hopes this statement will clarify this matter and will remove any ambiguities to confirm that the norm of national interest forms the basis of Kuwait's dealings with the issue of indirect boycott. This is what many other Arab countries have done and it is a matter that does not contradict with the law or principles of the boycott.

Naval Maneuvers With U.S., UK Conclude

LD2107142493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Jul (KUNA)—The joint American-British naval maneuvers, "Eager Sentry 5-93," which lasted five days, in Kuwaiti territorial waters, have ended. Colonel (MacDonough), the commander of U.S. Fleet 31 [as received] in the Gulf, said at a news conference held aboard the ship "USS O'Brien" that the maneuvers that the Kuwaiti, American, and British naval forces carried out aim at consolidating their mutual coordination and cooperation and developing the combat capabilities among the naval forces of the three states to counter any emergency Kuwait may face.

He stated that three warships, coast guard troops, and helicopters participated in the maneuvers, which began on 16 July.

For his part, Captain (Blackbeer), the commander of the British naval forces, said that the joint naval maneuvers are the third the forces of the three states have carried out and have achieved good results in getting familiarized with the atmosphere in the region, as well as in testing the capabilities of soldiers and weapons used in the shallow Gulf waters. The commander of the Kuwaiti combat group, Lieutentant Colonel Nasir al-Husaynan, stressed that the participation of the Kuwaiti naval forces consolidated the coordination among the friendly states. In addition, the Kuwaiti participation was reflected in the performance of our forces, which have become more capable in confronting any emergency situation Kuwait might face. He pointed out that these maneuvers are the 12th such maneuvers with friendly states that Kuwaiti forces have participated in. The ship Sanbuk of the Kuwaiti naval forces is expected to be launched at the beginning of next year, after undergoing some improvements so it coucan ld work alongside other Kuwaiti combat ships.

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Minister Comments on Ties, Concludes Visit

Sees 'New Era' Opening

PM2107103493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 93 pp1, 4

["Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri report: "Basindwah Tells AL-HAYAH: New Era Between Yemen and the GCC States"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "all the signs and indications are that a new era has begun between Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, especially the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that it will be a prosperous era with stronger ties than ever before."

The Yemeni minister, who concludes his visit to Saudi Arabia this morning, said that he delivered to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz "a message from his brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, not only confined to the issue of the borders between the two countries but also covering bilateral relations and including an invitation from the (Yemeni) president to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques to visit Yemen." He added that the date of the visit "will be set later." He also said: "I came out of my meeting with King Fahd more optimistic that Yemeni-Saudi relations will be stronger than they were in the past because neither state can do without the other. Our fates are eternally linked and our relations remain fraternal and eternal and, we hope, will increase in depth."

King Fahd received Minister Basindwah in his office at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah the day before yesterday in the presence of State Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and Yemeni Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ghalib 'Ali Jamil.

Nothing has been revealed about the meeting but reliable sources have stressed to AL-HAYAH that it focused "on the border negotiations between the two countries in the light of results achieved." The sources were unanimous that "settlement of the border dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia through tangible and effective progress in the forthcoming negotiations between the two countries would end the boycott between Sanaa and the GCC capitals and facilitate restoration of normal relations between them." Minister Basindwah agreed with that view and confirmed that "the still waters are moving and there is a serious desire to settle that dispute."

Basindwah confirmed that the next (fifth) round of negotiations between his country and Saudi Arabia "will be held in Sanaa soon and there is no problem between us. We are very hopeful that the difficulties will be ironed out on the instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih." [passage omitted]

Discusses Meeting With King Fahd

LD2007193493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1752 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Jul (SPA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has stated that, when King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received him two days ago, they discussed various issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Islamic nations.

In a statement before leaving Jeddah yesterday evening he said: "This meeting gave me the impression that the future will bring many hopes to our two fraternal neighbouring peoples and to our Arab and Islamic nations. I return to Sanaa in a more optimistic mood."

Mr. Muhammad Basindwah said that during the meeting he handed the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of Yemen, and that he also conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques an invitation from the Yemeni president to visit.

Asked whether the issue of the borders between the two countries was discussed, the Yemeni foreign minister expressed the hope that the next round of talks will take place in Sanaa, God willing, very soon. He emphasized that the ancient ties between Saudi Arabia and Yemen make it possible to solve all the problems. He said: "The two sides have sincere intentions to settle all the issues and elevate relations, God willing, to an even better status than they had in the past."

Notes Desire To Improve Ties

NC2007201493 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwah by 'Abdallah Hamzah at Jeddah airport prior to the latter's departure for Yemen on 20 July—recorded]

[Text] [Basindwah] I came carrying a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques from his brother His Excellency Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. I also conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques an invitation to visit the Republic of Yemen from his brother the president. My talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques were exhaustive and dealt with all the issues that concern our two fraternal and neighboring countries and also the Arab and Islamic nation. I came away from this meeting with the impression that the future will bring much hope for our fraternal and neighboring peoples and our Arab and Islamic nation. I return to Sanaa more optimistic.

[Hamzah] Mr. Minister. Reports said that the issue of the borders between the two countries was one of the topics discussed with the Saudi side. What has been done in this regard, particularly as the reports said that the talks will be held in Sanaa next week or in the next few weeks?

[Basindwah] I hope that the talks will be held in Sanaa in the near future, God willing. The durable relations between the Kingdom and the Republic of Yemen enable us to resolve all issues because there is absolutely no such thing as impossible. The two parties have a serious and sincere desire to resolve all issues and enhance relations so that they will become better than they were in the past.

Yemen

Foreign Minister Notes Progress in Gulf Relations

JN2007155393 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Jul 93 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by Ahmad al-Jabali in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jabali] Your Excellency the Minister: The policy statement presented to the House of Representatives recently points out that the trend of Yemeni policy during the next stage will focus on bolstering and activating Yemen's role, etcetera. What will you do to achieve this?

[Basindwah] We will utilize all familiar political frameworks and means, such as the exchange of visits, intensifying contacts, and setting up cooperation and coordination committees with fraternal and friendly states. We will also take part in regional, pan-Arab, and international conferences to which we will contribute well-studied viewpoints on all important issues and topics raised at them, especially those of interest to our country. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] Since the formation of the new Yemeni Government, there has been a clear improvement in the Yemeni-Gulf relations. Is this thanks to your special relations with officials in those countries, as you had said in previous statements, or is it due to other considerations?

[Basindwah] The improvement of Yemen's relations with most Gulf Cooperation Council states is certainly thanks to a joint desire to bridge the gap and to rectify what the second Gulf crisis has spoiled, now that emotions have calmed down and appropriate circumstances have become available for us to review our stands toward each other. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] In the same vein, it has been noticed that after the elections, there has been a new and active diplomatic move to bolster Yemen's relations with its neighbors. Does this mean that there is a tendency to review the outcome of Yemen's foreign policy during the transitional period in view of the new situation produced by the elections?

[Basindwah] The visits that have been exchanged and the ongoing diplomatic contacts between us and our brothers in Arab Gulf states are, in my view, the least that we should do in view of what is dictated on us by the ties of brotherhood, neighborhood, and the interests of the peoples of the region in particular and the our Arab and Islamic nation in general. Such visits and contacts would not have started had there not been common appreciation of the need to rebuild bridges and replace dispute with reconciliation so that we all participate in guaranteeing the region's stability and security and ward off the threats of the covetous ones. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] Your Excellency the Minister: You visited Manama recently and held contacts with its foreign minister. Do you believe that the visit achieved its objectives. Is there a trend to open a Bahraini embassy in Sanaa?

[Basindwah] I believe that the visit I made on 5 and 6 July to Manama—the capital of fraternal Bahrain—has certainly achieved its objectives. During the talks I held with His Excellency Foreign Minister Dr. Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah it was noted that views were identical on various issues and topics that were raised. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] During your recent visit to Vienna you were expected to meet with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al- Ahmad. Why didn't the meeting take place? Will there be a meeting soon?

[Basindwah] There is no interest in speaking about this now. With regard to a future meeting with His Excellency brother Shaykh al-Sabah, this depends on the circumstances. There is no need to speed things. What happened will not undermine amity between us. Matters depend on time. Anyhow, the ball is now in the court of the brothers in sisterly Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] Your Excellency the Minister: Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi visited Yemen recently. What was the primary benefit achieved in the visit, on the level of bilateral cooperation between Yemen and Oman?

[Basindwah] The visit to Yemen by the friend and brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah was successful and useful, as his excellency affirmed before leaving Sanaa. The relationship between Yemen and Oman can be described as a twin relationship. The Omanis and Yemenis are close brothers.

The most prominent result of the visit is the agreement to increase coordination in our stands, the open door for trade transactions, and to reiterate Oman's consent to allow Yemenis residing in the other sisterly Gulf states to pass through Oman en route back home and vice versa. An agreement was reached to convene a meeting of the Yemeni-Omani coordination council in Sanaa next September. They informed us that the consultant company charged with studying the Thamarit-al-Ghaydah road, which links both countries, will begin work next month. The talks also dealt with setting up a free zone on the border.

[Al-Jabali] It has been repeated that Yemen will mediate with Iraq concerning the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

[Basindwah] We were not asked this officially. Yemen, however, will not hesitate to exert any effort in this regard.

[Al-Jabali] Why didn't the Yemeni-Saudi border negotiations resume after the Yemeni elections? Did the previous rounds of talks achieve any progress toward the Yemeni principle of negotiations—that no damage should be inflicted on both sides?

[Basindwah] Relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia are stronger than any transient differences. The border problem will be solved as long there are sincere intentions. We, in Yemen, harbor every appreciation and affection for the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Fahd, and for the other Saudi leaders and people. We hope that the experts committee will resume its work soon, God willing.

As we reached an agreement on the border problem with our brothers in Oman, we will certainly reach such an agreement with our brothers in the kingdom. However, we do not want the talks to take 10 years to reach an agreement, as it took with Oman. It is correct to say that

border problems cannot be resolved in a few days, but the negotiations should take enough time to reach the expected results. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] So far, 10 rounds of Middle East peace talks were held without making any substantial results, or at least without results suggesting that a just peace, which the Arabs seek, will be attained. How do you view these negotiations?

[Basindwah] Undoubtedly, the failure of the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations was due to Israel's intransigent positions. Regrettably, the United States has not intervened as a party to the talks to bring the Israelis back to reason and to curb their intransigence, as it promised before the beginning of the 10th round. Anyway, Israel exploits the weakness of the Arab negotiator caused by the divided Arab ranks, inter-Arab differences, and the suffering and huge losses resulting from the Gulf crisis that have incurred on our Arab nation. The Republic of Yemen accepts what the Arab countries collectively accept, particularly what is accepted by the parties directly concerned with the conflict with Israel. But I, as an Arab citizen, do not hope for any good or honorable result from these negotiations as long as our position as Arabs continues to be weak. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jabali] How do you evaluate Yemeni-European relations, and Yemeni-U.S. relations? Has the size of U.S. aid to Yemen returned to normal after it shrank during the Gulf war?

[Basindwah] Relations between Yemen and most European countries are good and developed, and the same is true about our country's relations with the United States. But the assistance, or loans, Western countries give us is much less than what we need and what they can offer. The United States has recently decided to resume its aid to Yemen, but it kept the size of this aid as it was, and did not increase it, as we hoped, especially after our country emphasized its commitment to democracy, based on pluralism, although we did not choose the democratic path to appease any particular country. This choice was based on a conviction that this is the correct and necessary path for our progress and to ensure our stability and security.

[Al-Jabali] Following your recent visit to Manama, what is your next destination?

[Basindwsah] To where God's will is, and to where the interest of Yemen and the Arabs is. There is no need to announce the next visit now, so that the visit—if a visit is to be made soon—will be a surprise.

Speaker Says Monitoring Acceptable If Embargo Lifted

NC2107121493 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 21 (AFP)—Iraq is willing to allow long-term monitoring of its weapons programme but first wants assurances that an international embargo will be lifted, parliamentary speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said Wednesday [21 July].

"There's no problem concerning (Security Council) Resolution 715", which orders the monitoring, Salih told AFP. "But Iraq wants an assurance that the embargo will be lifted in accordance with our rights."

Iraq has implemented a Gulf war ceasefire resolution ordering the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction so the embargo was no longer justified, said Salih, an official in the ruling Ba'th party.

He said all factories capable of producing these weapons had been destroyed so "there's nothing to be frightened about."

The expected extension of the embargo by the Security Council later Wednesday was both "tragic and irritating" he said, calling for a "real discussion" on lifting the embargo.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming Iraq, left here Monday after reaching an interim agreement on monitoring that averted threatened U.S. air strikes.

Salih hoped that outstanding issues would be resolved when Iraq holds talks with UNSCOM at the end of August or early September.

The embargo was slapped on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

AL-THAWRAH Views Recent Saddam Speech, U.S. Policy

JN2107101893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the current U.S. policy embodies arrogance and brute force at their worst. This policy has come to the fore in the aftermath of the upheaval created by the collapse of the bipolar world order.

In an editorial published today, commenting on the comprehensive pan-Arab speech recently delivered by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's speech contained a serious and in-depth analysis of some aspects of the current international situation in general, and the U.S. obstinate and tyrannical conduct, as well as their repercussions on the region and the Arab nation in particular.

The paper goes on to say that the speech included important conclusions regarding the policies European states and Japan should adopt toward this U.S. conduct. The speech also spelled out what Arab leaders, particularly those who have made grave mistakes, should do.

AL-THAWRAH says: His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has correctly and properly diagnosed two basic problems in the relationship between the United States and Arabs. The first problem is that the United States has established an inextricable linkage between its interests in the region and ensuring the Zionist entity's strategic edge over the Arab nation. The second problem identified by his excellency the president is that the current U.S. Administration is taking a hostile and conspiratorial stand toward the countries of the region which differ with it in terms of the perspective espoused and the political conduct pursued.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration believes that maintaining Israel's qualitative edge over the Arabs serves U.S., and not only Israeli interests. Therefore, it is not making a distinction between the real interests of the United States on the one hand, and the interests of Zionism and its racist and usurper entity in occupied Palestine on the other.

The paper goes on to say: This U.S. policy, which is hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation, cannot be further away from the correct method of forging international relations based on proper considerations for regional security and stability. This policy is alien to the spirit of the age, and is not based on respect for the national identities of other countries. The clearest manifestation of this hostile U.S. stand is the official call for the so-called dual containment of both Iraq and Iran, and overlooking other calls which underscore the importance of effecting a balance in the region to safeguard security and stability.

The paper stresses that although it is practically impossible to pursue this dual containment policy, efforts to pursue such a policy would result in constant aggression and pressures on Iraq, and in an additional war against Iran. The pursuit of this dual containment policy is tantamount to political madness and racist prejudice that would only promote the policies of Israeli leaders, whose future outlook is not based on balanced calculations.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The current U.S. Administration continues to walk in the footsteps of the Bush administration and pursue many of its foreign policy threads. It has continued to demonstrate arrogance, hostility, and dictatorial behavior, not only toward its adversaries, but also toward its allies and friends, as well.

The paper goes on to say: At present, U.S. arrogance has gone to the extreme. The United States is unilaterally examining issues, passing judgments, drawing up solutions to international and regional crises, and enforcing these solutions. Once it does all this, it asks its allies to endorse its policies and moves. The U.S. Administration decides everything in accordance with its wishes and calculations regardless of the world public opinion, or the views of its closest allies, for that matter. This has been confirmed by the second missile attack on Iraq and its people.

The paper adds: We do not rule out the possible emergence of contradictions and differences between the United

States and its allies, Europe and Japan. However, such contradictions and differences have not yet crystallized.

The paper notes that U.S. hegemony only means growing interference in the domestic affairs of other states as well as increasing imperialist exploitation and theft, something which would escalate tension, create wars, and pose threats to world security and peace.

Concluding its commentary, the paper underscores His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's appeal to all honorable patriots in the world, and all strugglers along the path of freedom, justice, and progress to forge an alliance opposed to U.S. imperialism, describing such an endeavor as a "sacred and urgent humanitarian mission."

BABIL Criticizes 'Ignorant, Reckless' U.S. Leaders

JN2107121193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] 21 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said that the negative repercussions that are plaguing the world and the serious problems afflicting many of the peoples of the world are an indication of the deterioration, weakness, and inefficiency of the U.S. Administration which is dominating international decisionmaking.

In its editorial today, the paper alludes to the sharp criticism that was recently leveled at Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and says that the qualities of vacillation, weakness, and inefficiency are apparently not confined to Bill Clinton but characterize many U.S. officials.

It is well known that the criticism of Christopher extended from the American people to the media. Indeed, THE NEWS YORK TIMES went so far as to accuse him of incompetence and to demand his dismissal, saying that he has brought shame on the United States.

BABIL expresses regret that so much suffering is afflicting the peoples of the world at the hands of ignorant and reckless men that one has only to direct a single discerning glance at the world today to realize the facts and see the tragedies caused by the presence of these arrogant and spiteful people in the U.S. decisionmaking centers.

The paper says: "The United States has become a hotbed of danger and deadly plots because of a vacillating president and ignorant officials who bring shame upon their country and tragedies to other peoples."

The paper wonders in conclusion whether these conditions portray the United States as a superpower or as a gang.

German Move 'First Step' in Ending U.S. 'Dominance'

JN2007172193 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 20, INA—BABIL newspaper of Baghdad said that Germany declared yesterday the first step that could lead to establish real foundation for redressing the existing course in the relations between the European nations and the United States on the way of restoring the balance to the world life following the imbalance took place as a result of the absence of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

A paper editorial for today said that despite the German stance declared by the transport minister was not decisive and conclusive, but it was released with latent warning language that Germany is to abrogate the 1955 agreement that gave the U.S. aircraft the right to flight and landing in most parts of the country if the differences will not be settled about it.

The paper said that this move constitutes an advanced stance, deserving high appreciation and laudation.

This attitude came after less than 72 hours of the announcement of the decisive Italian position in countering the United Nations on the situation in Somalia, which was interpreted as a blow against the United States, the paper elaborated.

It further said that this attitude confirms soundness of Iraq's stance of its analysis of the international situation, in addition to it is an important indication, will contribute to restricting the state of deterioration resulted from key concessions by President Boris Yeltsin to Washington and owing to the dependency and weakness in the British diplomacy.

The paper concluded that the German and Italian stances would be developed in serious steps and most decisive measures, bringing an end to the U.S. dominance and establishing foundations of the European independence, thus the Arab countries should seek for ceasing the state of deterioration and throwing themselves into U.S. arms to maintain the minimum of their national interests.

Ramadan Sees 'Promising' Iraqi, Arab Future

JN2007161593 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Jul 93 p 3

[Excerpts] On the 25th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution, AL-THAWRAH has interviewed Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party, Revolution Command Council member, and vice president. Ramadan answered AL-THAWRAH's questions on the role leader Saddam Husayn played in planning for the revolution, the lofty edifice the revolution has built throughout its history, the 30-state Atlantic aggression against our country, and on Iraq's political and economic future after that aggression. The interview touched on other issues, such as the economic blockade, the UN Security Council, Resolution 687, and Iraq's Arab and international role after the 30-state aggression. [passage omitted]

[Al-THAWRAH] What do you think Iraq's political and economic future is, after the 30-state aggression?

[Ramadan] After the 30-state aggression against our country, we must talk about what we learned from that experience. We believe great principles require great sacrifices. I am not exaggerating when I say the Mother of Battles was needed to spark the nation's energies and bring about new resources and formulas that were impossible to

arrive at without passing through that stage. Otherwise, how can we explain the great edifice the revolution has built in 25 or 23 years, as the enemy acknowledged before the friend did. They said Iraq is distinguished from any other country, even the rich ones. How can we explain that reservoir of action we had in two years, after that edifice was destroyed by the 30-state aggression and which is being rebuilt now under blockade circumstances.

We say reconstruction must be a product of the Mother of Battles. If all that reconstruction has been done under the blockade, imagine how it would be if new energies are added when the blockade is lifted.

Iraq is progressing further and faster than was the case before the 30-state aggression. This is the real secret that has made the enemies insist on not lifting the blockade. Therefore, the process of building and reconstruction is one of the positive results produced by the Mother of Battles. Consequently, I believe the economic and political future of Iraq is very promising and will not depend on oil exportation alone. Rather, we will see new formulas in the process of building and reconstruction, at the head of which is the Iraqi citizen's creative abilities and energies produced by the Mother of Battles, and in the agricultural, services, industrial, and educational fields. These will be much more than the billions gained from oil. The billions of oil revenues will only constitute a small part of them.

I think the Iraqi economy will have many achievements, different from those before the aggression, once the blockade is shattered. We can say, therefore, that Iraq will play an important political role regionally and internationally, through the rallying of the masses around the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, who will lead the nation ahead using energies and resources totally different from those known before the aggression. Hence, the importance of the huge sacrifices by Iraq and the importance of maintaining this steadfastness in order to make the enemies despair and surrender and feel that their continued blockade will not achieve their aims, but will just double our efforts and release greater energies.

[AL-THAWRAH] When will the blockade be lifted? Do you think this will happen soon?

[Ramadan] The blockade will not be officially lifted until it starts to harm those who imposed and continue it. This will never happen simply by an awakening of the conscience of the criminals. I mean the Americans and their agents.

Resolution 687 has three components: Withdrawal and destruction of weapons, lifting the embargo immediately after the destruction of weapons, and discussions on future monitoring.

Some states told us to accept the resolution and that the blockade would be lifted in days or weeks. Years have passed and the blockade is still in place. We had expected the blockade to continue.

The leader president said then that the blockade would not be lifted in days or weeks. On this basis, it was decided to start the reconstruction effort early. President Saddam Husayn said the enemies would not lift the blockade, but said it would corrode from within thanks to our people's steadfastness and their continued reconstruction drive and the promotion of our own capabilities.

As for the future of the Arab nation, it is clear that there are in the Arab arena rulers who are afraid and others who are traitors. But I say the future of this nation is for its people rather than for its rulers. I think a miserable future awaits those rulers. My great confidence comes from the future and efforts of our Arab people.

Some say: How can you expect a people governed by such rulers to do anything? I say the Arab people do have a presence, but every state of affairs is governed by the circumstances surrounding it. Let us take Egypt, for example. Its rulers and its president Husni supported the aggression. But, we see that the Egyptian people demonstrated in support of Iraq and its leaders, and denounced the aggressors in spite of the U.S. weight and in spite of all the Zionist machinations in Egypt. All this did not prevent the Egyptian people from expressing their genuine pan-Arab sentiments. They expressed this through demonstrations and press articles. Although media deception is rife in the Arab arena, I believe pan-Arab sentiments and national feelings do exist. Everybody knows the extent of the damage done to Iraq and its people, and the arrogance and hostility of the United States and the evil intentions it harbors toward Iraq and the Iraqi people. The sons of the Arab nation cannot but be true to themselves and to their pan-Arab sentiments. The Arab people are in a better situation than in 1990. This does not apply to the traitor rulers who stood out as such after the 30-state aggression. Before the aggression, they used to hide behind slogans and deceive the people. But, now they have been completely exposed and their people know their stands, which have betrayed them and the Arab nation. This is the sound beginning of the nation's struggle against its enemies and its traitor rulers.

Let us look at the traitorous Hafar al-Batin rulers. Are they more secure? Do they enjoy a better economic situation than before the 30-state aggression? They enjoyed a far more better situation before the aggression in the security and economic field, not to mention that they have been exposed as agents and lackeys. For example, let us take Saudi Arabia, that rich country. Is it wealthier now than before 1990? Do its rulers enjoy security?

I am sure they do not sleep at night. Those who depend on the enemy cannot be sure that they will have a secure future. From this premise, my optimsim in the Arab nation's future equals what I feel about Iraq itself, an Iraq whose strength and progress we witness every day.

Fate has destined Iraq to be in the forefront, that it will be the leader and the pioneer. That's why its sacrifices are larger. This is natural. It is an honor that befits great Iraq, its hero leader Saddam Husayn, and its noble Arab people.

Egypt's al-Baz Said To Be Intermediary in PLO Talks

TA2107111393

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 21 July carries several reports referring to the intermediary allegedly sent by Rabin to PLO-Tunis.

Writing on page 4, Amnon Barzilay and Amnon Levi state: "A senior Israeli Government minister yesterday told HADASHOT that despite the denials, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks concerning the intermediary between Israel and the PLO leadership in Tunis were accurate."

A report by Fayiz 'Abbas on page 5 states that "Palestinian sources close to PLO-Tunis" told HADASHOT that "Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's adviser, is the intermediary between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the PLO leadership in Tunis." According to the sources, "al-Baz has been seriously and intensively mediating between the Palestinians and Israel over the past few months." The report further cites the Palestinian sources that "no direct meetings have been held between the Palestinians and Israelis," although "in the course of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' most recent visit to Cairo, indirect contacts were held between senior PLO personnel and officials from Peres' entourage. These contacts were mediated by Dr. al-Baz."

Another page 5 report by Fayiz 'Abbas states: "Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah has been also mentioned as an intermediary between Rabin and the PLO leadership." The MK's assistant is quoted as saying: "I can neither confirm nor deny that Darawshah is the intermediary, but he has been in frequent contact with the prime minister's bureau and the Palestinian leadership in recent months." The assistant adds that "contact with 'Arafat's bureau in Tunis is on a daily basis."

Writing on page 36 of HADASHOT's HAMUSAF HAYOMI supplement, Amnon Barzilay adds: "Yitzhaq Rabin's efforts to remove Shim'on Peres from the bilateral peace process have been unsuccessful. Two days ago, the prime minister spoke of the mediating efforts between Israel and the PLO leadership in Tunis. And who is the intermediary? The Americans cannot engage in that activity, because it is an official U.S. policy that the United States does not maintain a dialogue with the PLO. The almost exclusive intermediaries, therefore, are the Egyptians. That must have been one of the primary explanations for Peres' good mood.

"Rabin wanted to remove Peres from the bilateral peace process, and he blocked his path to the Americans. But now the foreign minister is returning to the process through the back door—the Egyptians. Rabin has his own channel for messages to the PLO—apparently operating through Hayim Ramon, who passes them on to MK 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, who in turn conveys them to Tunis—but it is not enough. Rabin needed Peres' long-time communication channels via Usamah al-Baz, Husni Mubarak's political adviser. This is the channel Deputy Minister Yosi Beilin had established to relay and receive messages."

Peres on Intermediary Report, Christopher Tour

TA2007160493 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Excerpts] [Segal] Today's political headline was made by HADASHOT, where political correspondent Amnon Barzilay reported that a secret intermediary [metavekh] has been operating between Israel and PLO-Tunis on behalf of Rabin. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is in our Jerusalem studio. Good evening, sir.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Segal] Is the report true?

[Peres] No; it is a baseless headline. It is unfounded.

[Segal] Do you mean that no intermediary at all is employed between us and PLO-Tunis?

[Peres] Correct; there is no intermediary. None is employed.

[Segal] None is employed. But if someone were employed....

[Peres, interrupting] Then it would have made the headlines.

[Segal] Yes, but beyond headlines, what would such an intermediary do? Would he be able to conduct negotiations between us and PLO-Tunis? What issues would he negotiate?

[Peres] Look, there is one intermediary: the United States. Nothing can replace U.S. mediation, just as the United States cannot replace either Israel or the Palestinians. Basically, no intermediary will determine whether an agreement is or is not attained. This will be up to the two sides. The two sides to these negotiations have a problem: One the one hand, each side wants to find ways to bridge the differences, and on the other, each side wants to make sure it retains the support of its public. The case of Jerusalem is a good example.

[Segal] Yes, how can the differences on the Jerusalem issue be bridged?

[Peres] Look, the issue of Jerusalem, or the other issues....[pauses] We are clearly not seeking to bridge anything with regard to Jerusalem; we have a fixed stand, which is not subject to cracks or alterations.

[Segal] As do they.

[Peres] Indeed, as do they. But, there is one thing: We should get out a pen and sign everything on which agreement has been achieved, and we should get out a calendar and defer issues on which agreement has not been achieved to a more distant future.

The matter of Jerusalem, for instance, must not be discussed now. We will not agree to Jerusalem being part of

the autonomy, and we will not agree to Jerusalem being partitioned under the permanent settlement. Those who are placing the Jerusalem issue in the center at this time are preventing any possibility of an understanding. In other words, we must search for bridging formulations even at the cost of postponing the solution of disagreements, filling the ensuing vacuum with other things. such as....

[Segal, interrupting] Well, I now have a better understanding of the Israeli stand, Mr. Peres; but what about the Palestinian stand? Are they ready, have they indicated or signaled their readiness to put off the controversial issues?

[Peres] Naturally, the Palestinians would like us to adopt their views. It is natural and understandable. They do have a very serious problem. I would even say that, in a sense, they have a more pressing problem than we do, because we have a government and a parliamentary opposition. Neither the government nor the opposition holds a gun against the head of the other. The Palestinians have an absolutely unarmed delegation and an armed opposition. [passage omitted]

[Segal] What do you think is the reason for the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher? By the way, according to some reports, he will arrive earlier than planned; is it true?

[Peres] What we know at this point is that the U.S. secretary of state will probably arrive at the end of the week. He has to decide whether to come to Israel before, en route to, or on his way back from Asia. At this point, it seems he will probably come at the end of this week or the beginning of next.

He is coming because America does not want to stop the negotiations either. As you know, there are no meetings in Washington at present. In the sense of contacts, a vacuum must not be allowed to develop. We know that in Washington, as well as here and in other locations, the decisions have to be made by the sides. [passage omitted]

[Segal] Mr. Peres, you are a very experienced statesman. Do you believe something will shift—and I am deliberately avoiding the banal term breakthrough—during Warren Christopher's upcoming visit?

[Peres] I would say the shift will continue after this visit. I do not foresee a breakthrough during this visit, although we are much closer to an arrangement with the Palestinians than facts would indicate and closer than most people think; I have always said that, and everybody has always told me that I am terribly optimistic. I am indeed optimistic.

[Segal] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.

Ben-Eli'ezer Notes Need for Dialogue With 'Arafat

TA2107112593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Yosi Leibowich]

[Excerpt] "We did not win the last elections. The Likud got its ass kicked and we can expect the same unless we make some drastic changes. The people can no longer distinguish between the Likud and Labor parties. They are looking for leadership, and they have many expectations of us." These remarks were made yesterday by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer in meetings with Haifa trade union chapters and as guest of the Northern District Electric Company workers union.

"The ordinary man is interested in personal security issues, and he wants a leadership that speaks directly to him. That is the reason I make it a point to remind my fellow ministers that we received a mandate for one term only. And if the people think they have been hoodwinked, they will stick it to us," the minister added.

As for the need to make the best of the peace process, Ben-Eli'ezer said that "70 percent of the Palestinian delegates are in favor of reaching a peace accord, while the rest are against. But the majority is incapable of moving the peace process forward, and that is why I am in favor of a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat, a leader whom I used to underestimate but whom I now recognize as the man who can either expedite or halt the process."

Ben-Eli'ezer lauded the prime minister's performance, noting that only a man who directs security affairs and the political sphere can steer the country to a historic move. [passage omitted]

Media Report Anticipated Progress on Syrian Track

'Senior Minister' on Emerging Arrangement

TA2107060593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and news agencies]

[Excerpt] "The emerging arrangement with Syria will be based on the gradual withdrawal from the Golan, concurrent with normalization and demilitarization," a senior minister said yesterday. In his opinion, there are much better chances of reaching an arrangement with Syria soon than attaining a compromise with the Palestinians.

Syria asked the United States to open a track that would operate in parallel with the negotiations conducted by officials in Washington. This was revealed by a senior political element this week. The Syrians proposed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher launch a series of Kissinger-style shuttle tours between Damascus and Jerusalem in a bid to mediate between the two countries' senior political echelons.

Christopher's Middle East tour in fact represents a favorable U.S. response to the Syrian proposal, which also received Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's blessing.

When he returned to Washington, special envoy Dennis Ross reported that he felt Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was ready for an arrangement with Israel without waiting for one between Israel and the Palestinians. Christopher, who is due in Jerusalem in 10 days, will focus on finding a formula on the Golan Heights' future that is acceptable to Syria, and one on the substance of peace that meets with Israel's approval.

The Americans believe that the very fact the process will be focusing on the Syrian-Israeli track will motivate the Palestinians, who fear being stranded on the margins of the process, to adopt more flexible stands in their negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 21 July, in a front-page report by the paper's political correspondent, cites "political circles in Jerusalem" as saying yesterday that "there is no chance the peace talks' level will be upgraded to that of foreign ministers." The report adds: "Cabinet circles believe that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will not agree to upgrade the level of the talks because of his own considerations relating to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' standing and to their relationship. In addition, he does not believe such a move will invigorate the peace process."]

'Parallel Tracks' Noted

TA2107052093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Studio discussion by anchor Shalom Qital and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Qital] The peace negotiations will once again focus on the Israeli-Syrian track. The contacts with the Syrians are being conducted along several parallel tracks. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the studio. Does the fact that the Syrian track is now being stressed mean that we are giving up on the Palestinians?

[Raz] It means that the pendulum, which sometimes swings in the Syrian direction and sometimes in the Palestinian direction, is once again tending toward the Syrians. There is a deadlock with the Palestinians. By the way, the Americans are apparently working on a new draft document after both Israel and the Palestinians rejected the earlier one, but as time has passed since the shuttle by Dennis Ross and his team, the United States has tended to conclude that most of the stress has to be put on the Syrian track, which might pressure the Palestinians to advance in their talks with Israel. It is interesting to note that the Israeli-Syrian talks are currently being conducted along several tracks. Although in the final analysis, if some progress is made, all the efforts will return to the negotiations being conducted from time to time in Washington. Dennis Ross and his team concluded their shuttle to the region with the clear feeling that the Syrians are committed to peace. They said so clearly to President Weizman, Prime Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Peres. With the passing of time they have become more convinced that if they want to push the peace process forward, and thereby obligate the Palestinians to make progress in the process, they have to concentrate the current efforts with Syria along several tracks. We will recall that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in Israel at the end of the month, and the U.S. peace team under Dennis Ross will arrive a few days earlier. The main point, according to Israeli and American sources, is that once again the stress in the peace negotiations is switching to the Israeli-Syrian peace talks. Israel might now have to clarify how far it is prepared to withdraw in the Golan Heights and what peace it is demanding in return.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 21 July adds: "Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the contacts between Israel and Syria will apparently soon be conducted along a track parallel to the peace talks in Washington. The discussions along the new track will be conducted by U.S. shuttle diplomacy in the region. The upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is part of that framework, and he will give preference to advancing the talks between Israel and Syria."]

Baraq Comments on Need To Act Against Hizballah

TA2007152093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Sooner or later we will have to act against Hizballah targets beyond the security zone in south Lebanon, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Our Knesset correspondent Tziyon Nanus reports:

[Begin recording] [Nanus] Gen. Baraq said Hizballah activity has exacerbated in scope, character, and means. There is greater use of Sagger missiles, mortars, RPG's, and katyushas. The last 10 days were relatively quiet.

[Baraq] If the relative quiet of the last 10 days is not maintained, then I assume we will have to consider our response, and the action called for will be carried out. I am referring to the possibility of a wider-ranging action, which will necessarily take place beyond the security zone.

[Nanus] We are not put off by a confrontation with Hizballah, Gen. Baraq stressed, although that organization is exploiting Israel's sensitivity to casualties among the inhabitants of the northern border.

[Baraq] There is an effort to destabilize the border area and make the inhabitants of the settlements there into hostages, and we are not prepared to accept those rules.

[Nanus] That does not mean that we will act tomorrow morning, Baraq said publicly into the microphones, but in the Knesset committee he was much firmer. Sooner or later, we will have to operate against Hizballah targets beyond the security zone, Gen. Baraq said. I do not want to detail our modus operandi so as not to help the enemy, he added. The chief of staff hopes that his forecast will be proven wrong, but he did not deny in the committee that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pressed for a military operation in Lebanon at Sunday's [18 July] cabinet meeting. Anyway, he stressed, the final decision is up to the political echelon.

[Baraq] At present, there is a decision to beef up the security zone with forces already deployed there and others that can reach it very quickly as soon as they are needed. The final decision whether to use that might or not will depend on developments, and of course, further considerations, as well as a cabinet decision.

[Nanus] On Syria, the chief staff said that they do not regret the mutual bloodshed in the security zone as long as

it does not get out of proportion. What is certain is that the Syrians are not doing anything to restrain Hizballah. [end recording]

UK's Foreign Minister Hogg Visits Palestinian Camp

Views 'Current Conditions'

NC2007155093 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, July 20 (AFP)—British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg visited one of the toughest Palestinian refugee camps on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday [20 July] after stressing the need for quick progress at the Middle East peace talks.

"The message I give to the Palestinian representatives is the need to make very early progress in the negotiations," Hogg told journalists after meeting Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation at the bilateral talks.

"We are strongly supportive of the American efforts," Hogg said.

According to 'Abd-al-Shafi, the minister brought no new ideas. "Britain can only encourage the two sides to make peace and not interfere in the process and let the Americans get on with it," 'Abd-al-Shafi said.

Hogg, who came over the Allenby Bridge from Jordan to visit the occupied territories and Israel, drove straight to Gaza City to meet Palestinian leaders.

The minister, who first visited the territories in 1991, wanted "to see current conditions at first hand," a British spokesman said.

At Gaza's al-Ahli Arab hospital Hogg met six-year-old Rashid al-Mughrabi, who was shot in the abdomen by Israeli soldiers July 17 near his Khan Yunus home.

Escorted by officials from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, Hogg saw 22 Palestinian homes in Gaza City destroyed by Israeli rocket fire in April and met one of the families still living in a tent.

"He was quite affected by it," UNRWA spokesman Ron Wilkinson told AFP. "He couldn't quite believe it."

The couple's 20-month-old baby was shot dead by Israeli troops in Jabaliya refugee camp a week after they lost their house.

Hogg went on to Jabaliya refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City and toured an UNRWA clinic in the camp, home to 70,000 Palestinians.

He is due to meet West Bank Palestinian figures in East Jerusalem on Wednesday and have talks on the peace process with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The minister leaves for London on Thursday.

Says Talks at 'Critical Moment'

TA2007175693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] British Deputy Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg arrived in Israel today and went straight to the Gaza Strip, where he met with the co-head of the Palestinian delegation, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. In an interview a short time ago with reporter Dick Winter, Hogg said that the Palestinians voiced their anxiety about reaching any autonomy agreement, and he denied that he had brought with him any plan to break the deadlock in the talks.

[Begin recording] [Hogg] People expressed their very considerable anxieties about the peace process, their feeling that there was a risk, that if they agreed to proceed to an interim settlement leading to the final stage, they might be trapped with the interim stage and see no further progress. I tried to reassure them about that. I stressed the view of the British Government that we think it's absolutely essential that the Palestinians do enter into detailed discussions on the interim stage, and that that process will lead to the final stage; that is our conviction.

[Winter] You are quoted in the press—I don't know if it was correctly quoted—that you are carrying with you some sort of solution to the standoff.

[Hogg] No, no, that was entirely incorrect. I think there may have been some language misunderstanding. Our position is that we stand full square behind the American initiative. We don't actually have a separate program or a separate agenda. There may be things that we can do to reinforce what the Americans are doing and to assist—and help in that way, but we don't have a separate program.

[Winter] Now, you arrived in Israel today, and instead of meeting with government officials, you went straight to the Gaza Strip. Do you anticipate that this will cause you some diplomatic problems here?

[Hogg] Not at all. I am very much looking forward to meeting a number of ministers tomorrow, including, I hope, the prime minister and the foreign minister and his deputy, Yosi Beilin, who I've met a number of times in London.

[Winter] What's your feeling, what's your assessment? There has been a lot of pessimism here about the chances for the peace process to be moved forward.

[Hogg] I can understand that. There is a certain amount of reason for pessimism, too, I think. I actually do think that this is a very critical moment in the sense that if there isn't positive movement within the talks fairly soon—and by that I mean certainly by the end of this year—there really is a very high probability that the talks will fail, the process will fail. [end recording]

Tells Palestinians To Adhere to Process

TA2007172893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Palestinian leaders have been trying over the past few days to draft new proposals for the resolution of the Jerusalem issue prior to Warren Christopher's arrival in the region. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, who had complained of recent U.S. pressure on the Palestinians, met with the visiting British minister of state for foreign affairs in Gaza today. The meeting with Douglas Hogg was also attended by Palestinian delegates Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Furayh Abu-Middayn, and Jabir Faddah, as well as Rajib Surani, director of the Gaza Human Rights Center, and Mansur al-Shawwa, a Gaza businessman.

Gaza sources said that the talk with Hogg revolved mainly around the peace process and the deadlock which the process has reached. According to them, Hogg called on the Palestinian leaders to adhere to the process and the negotiations with Israel because only an agreement between the two nations will improve the bleak condition of the residents of the Gaza Strip in particular and the territories in general.

A Palestinian delegation source noted tonight that in his opinion, Hogg's visit to Gaza was another attempt to convince Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to adopt more flexible stands. The source added that in addition to the basic problems besetting the peace process, the Palestinians find it difficult to distinguish between the negotiations on the interim and permanent arrangements, on one hand, and the present status of human rights in the territories, or to overlook the economic plight of the population, on the other. This difficulty persists despite the repeated assurance by both the United States and Israel that an arrangement between the two nations will bring about the desired change.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian leaders are awaiting Christopher's arrival in the hope that his tour will result in a signed document of principles with Israel and the resumption of the Washington talks at the beginning of August.

UN Envoy Protests References to 'Palestine'

TA2107053393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Text] While in Israel there are reports about secret negotiations between Israel and the PLO, it appears that the drafters of various UN documents have been making great strides forward and have raised the PLO's observer status to that of a representative of a member state despite the fact that it is defined as a nonstate observer, unlike Switzerland and the Vatican. That did not prevent the UN bulletin to write a month ago that the representatives of Italy, Sudan, the Ukraine, the United States, and Palestine spoke or to note in a committee report that the representative of Palestine participated.

Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi, in his letter to the UN's legal adviser, mentioned those quotations and called for preventing a recurrence of such incidents. In the past, when there were similar publications, the UN apologized and sometimes even issued a correction, but it seems that at least for some UN officials the state of Palestine has already been set up, at least on the East River.

Wage Hikes Accepted; Civil Servant Strike Ends

TA2107054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The civil service strike, which has lasted two weeks, has ended, and the employees have returned to work. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports that the discussions on a memorandum of understanding between the Treasury and the Histadrut lasted 16 hours, and the document will serve as a basis for detailed negotiations between the sides. Under the memorandum, civil servants will receive an average wage rise of 9 to 10 percent beginning in July. On 1 January 1995, they will receive another 4.5 percent, and a similar raise will be given in January 1996. [passage omitted]

Compromise Achieved on Elat Ship Searches

TA2107054793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Britain, France, Canada, and Australia have accepted the compromise worked out by the United States and the United Nations on Israeli shipping in the Gulf of Elat. Israeli ships carrying 8,000 tonnes of cargo or more will not be searched, provided the Israel Navy informs the maritime powers in advance of their arrival. However, smaller Israeli cargo ships will still be stopped and searched. The declared purpose of the searches is to make sure that arms or other embargoed cargo is not smuggled to Saddam Husayn's Iraq. Israel maintains that it is patently unjust and absurd to imagine that Israel would be involved in such contraband. The searches have caused heavy losses to Israeli shipping lines and to the Port of Elat, where there is unemployment. This is because some of the ships have cut their losses by sailing through the Suez Canal to Haifa or Ashdod instead of Elat.

King Says Confederation Conditional on Economic Aid

TA2107132593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 93 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] King Husayn has informed the United States that Amman's agreement to an early confederation between Jordan and the territories is conditional on economic aid to enable Jordan to carry both the Jordanian and Palestinian economies.

Palestinian sources in the territories report that the issue of confederation came up during a meeting between King Husayn and President Clinton; however, Husayn expressed reservations and said that everyone should learn the lessons from European union efforts. Husayn said that the fusion of two unmatched economies, such as those of former West and East Germany, precipitated an economic crisis for both countries.

Without international economic aid, the attempt to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation could lead to serious danger, the king asserted. King Husayn nevertheless agreed to strengthen coordination with the Palestinians on the peace process, as stipulated at the beginning of the talks at the Madrid conference, but not much more than that. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Expects Peace Talks 'Breakthrough'

PM2007135093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 19-25 Jul 93 pp 27-29

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Zaki Shihab; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] You are still optimistic that a peaceful solution and a breakthrough will be achieved in the Arab-Israeli negotiations this year. What is your optimism based on?

[Al-Majali] On what is happening at the negotiating table and on the various tracks. You know what has happened on the Jordanian-Israeli track. And on the Palestinian-Israeli track numerous papers have been presented. They include positive points and negative points. This should be clear to people. What is negative should be tackled to resolve it. There are also President Bill Clinton's personal assurances that he would intervene personally in the issue to achieve a breakthrough. This is in addition to Secretary of State Warren Christopher's assurances in this connection.

[Shihab] When and where did President Clinton promise to intervene to push the peace process forward?

[Al-Majali] When His Majesty King Husayn met with President Clinton during our visit to Washington. This assertion was made then.

[Shihab] And when will Clinton intervene?

[Al-Majali] At the right time.

[Shihab] But Secretary Christopher says that the negotiations are at a standstill.

[Al-Majali] We should erase from our minds the idea that a black and white picture can be achieved in a moment and that there is a ready-made solution to all the issues. The question is complex, big, multifaceted, and requires time. There are many problems, and the Arab delegations' ability to persuade and explain things to the Americans will help the United States to take the right positions.

[Shihab] You headed the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations for a long time, and you met with the parties concerned, Arab, Israeli, or American. And you are still one of those convinced that these negotiations have achieved a breakthrough. In what area has this breakthrough been achieved?

[Al-Majali] For the Jordanian track to reach a clear agenda which includes all the main foundations for future negotiations is a very good breakthrough.

And for the Palestinian track to have a Palestinian entity, a negotiating Palestinian delegation, and a discussion of Jerusalem... all these things lead one to believe that there are positive aspects and a breakthrough. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] You talk about a breakthrough in the Jerusalem issue. How can you describe it as a breakthrough, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are insisting on not raising the issue of Jerusalem for negotiation and adhering to it as the eternal capital of the State of Israel?

[Al-Majali] Shim'on Peres did not say that. They say that the Jerusalem issue will not be resolved in the first phase of the transfer of authority, but in the final phase—which does not mean that the Jerusalem issue will not be discussed. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Would Jordan accept an Arab-Israeli solution that does not include the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty?

[Al-Majali] The Arab side, not only Jordan, cannot accept a solution that does not include the return to Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

His Majesty King Husayn and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will accept nothing short of the return of Jerusalem's sovereignty to the Arab side. This is fundamental and well known. But negotiation is the way to achieve this aim.

[Shihab] You point out that Jordan has achieved a breakthrough in the negotiations with Israel. In what area has this breakthrough been made?

[Al-Majali] There are several Jordanian issues: There are occupied territories and borders which we want to demarcate. There are waters to which we have a right. We have huge numbers of refugees and fear Israeli intimidation. All these issues are fundamental and included clearly on the agenda. I believe this is a breakthrough.

[Shihab] Is there really almost an Israeli agreement with Jordan which just needs signing, as Peres indicated in one of his statements?

[Al-Majali] There are no signatures, and I would have thought the matter was quite clear: First, the agenda I mentioned does not need signing or formalities. It is like any dealings. The negotiations are still continuing. The basic outlines have been drawn up, and there are one or two linguistic points in need of amendment or correction, then we would move to another phase. We say frankly that we will not move a single step forward unless the Palestinian side achieves progress in the negotiations. This is because the Palestinian issue is the crux of the entire problem in the Middle East. And if progress is not achieved in the crux, this is not normal. This is why, although Jordan has achieved what it has achieved, it has announced that it will not be able to achieve progress in the negotiations without progress on the Palestinian track.

[Shihab] Did the Israeli side admit the existence of occupied Jordanian territories, and did it express willingness to return them?

[Al-Majali] Of course, Israel recognized the British mandate border, which is the clearest feature. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] How do you view the present U.S. Administration's method of handling the negotiations?

[Al-Majali] I believe it is serious. They stressed this to us: That they are completely serious and their strategy is based on securing a fundamental and just solution in the Middle East and that the parties must succeed in achieving a peaceful and just solution.

[Shihab] The new administration is accused of backtracking on promises it made in the past as a basis for solving the region's crisis and initiating the negotiation process.

[Al-Majali] I have not sensed that.

[Shihab] Does the new administration believe in a solution based on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338?

[Al-Majali] You are looking for sensationalism. I hope you will stop that, because it destroys the Arab cause when you say these things. It adversely affects the peace process as a whole.

[Shihab] But criticisms of the new U.S. Administration are not made by the press, but by members and officials in the negotiating Palestinian delegation.

[Al-Majali] That is inaccurate.

[Shihab] So you still believe that the U.S. Administration is still serious about finding a just solution.

[Al-Majali] I still believe, and I am optimistic, that this year will witness a good peaceful breakthrough.

[Shihab] What is the nature of this peaceful breakthrough?

[Al-Majali] That the Palestinian brothers reach an agreement with the Israelis and that the process of electing a government begin, in order to take charge of authority in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Is any negotiating Arab delegation willing to sign a peace agreement with Israel without any progress being achieved by the other parties?

[Al-Majali] None of the Arab delegations is willing to sign an agreement without the others.

[Shihab] What did King Husayn's visit to the United States achieve, especially as it was the occasion for his first meeting with President Clinton?

[Al-Majali] First, the restoration of relations to their former status between Jordan and the United States. These relations are traditional, good, and excellent relations. They were marred by the Gulf war, but the clouds have cleared and relations have begun to return to normal. They are improving, as well.

[Shihab] What about U.S. aid to Jordan?

[Al-Majali] The U.S. Government has released last year's aid. They appreciate Jordan's position, its seriousness, and its importance in the regional order. We succeeded in putting them in the picture of what is happening.

[Shihab] Did the United States agree to King Husayn's request to end the process of inspecting ships heading for the Jordanian port of Aqaba?

[Al-Majali] They are considering it. When they are sure that Jordan is credible and implementing the UN resolutions as a committed state, these questions will disappear. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat reiterates the issue of a confederation with Jordan. What about Jordan?

[Al-Majali] Confederation will not take place before the Palestinian people attain their right to self-determination. After that we would decide whether it is a confederation, a federation, or any other form. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Why has Jordan's relationship with Iraq deteriorated, especially after King Husayn's statements which were described as aimed against President Saddam Husayn's policy?

[Al-Majali] The press reads things in a different way. Jordan supports the Iraqi people completely. We believe in the Iraqi people's freedom and the need for them to enjoy democracy. We believe in freedom, democracy, and pluralism. The Iraqi people are free with regard to their internal affairs. We do not interfere in their affairs, nor do they interfere in ours.

[Shihab] You are talking about the Iraqi people. What about the Iraqi Government? Why has there been coolness in your relationship with it?

[Al-Majali] There is no coolness in our relationship. This coolness exists in the press and the media only.

[Shihab] Are there official Iraqi-Jordanian relations, and will the two countries' officials exchange visits soon?

[Al-Majali] Iraq's only outlet to the world is Jordan, and our border is the only border open.

[Shihab] Why was King Husayn's statement on conditions and democracy in Iraq interpreted as criticism of Saddam Husayn's policy of government?

[Al-Majali] May God forgive those who said that.

Editorial Terms U.S. Stance on Peace Talks 'Evasive'

JN2107093293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jul 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The U.S. Threat To Withdraw From the Negotiations"]

[Text] From time to time, U.S. officials reiterate that they are losing patience with the continued obstruction of the Middle East peace talks, and that their country, which is sponsoring these negotiations, will completely withdraw from the peace process if the desired progress is not achieved within the framework of this process before the end of this year.

Initially, we would like to consider this U.S. stand which is being reiterated by senior officials at the White House and the U.S. Department of State, one of many U.S. methods of applying diplomatic pressure to urge the parties directly concerned to move forward and have the spirit and determination to continue this process.

However, if the Americans are satisfied merely to hint at the possibility of withdrawing from the peace process, thus leaving the Middle East to its gloomy fate, we will consider such a stand a way of evading its responsibilities as the only superpower in this world and the only catalyst in a peace initiative for which it alone was responsible.

There is no doubt that if this evasive stand becomes a strong U.S. trend and is a sign of the U.S. Administration's despair over the possibility of taking advantage of the current unique peace opportunity, Israel on its part will do its utmost to push the Americans toward such a conclusion. This would remove from its shoulders responsibility for leading the negotiations into difficulties, stalemate, despair, and wagering.

The United States, which still announces its commitment to the full partner role and is involved in an almost continuous diplomatic effort to prevent the peace process from failing, is offering, through its continuous warnings that it may withdraw from the peace process, a direct service to Israel. This is because Israel, from the start of the peace process, has tried to push the participating parties into such despair and bring an end to the peace process without have to bear the consquences of its failure.

Editorial Hails UK Official's Peace Proposals

JN2007154593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jul 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Stumbling Peace Process and the Expected European Role"]

[Text] In light of the statements by the British minister of state at the Foreign Office on his government's new proposals to overcome the obstacles to Middle East peace and the expected European role in the peace process, we must welcome the British endeavor. We have always called on Europe to play this role, for which it is qualified.

As Douglas Hogg begins his Mideast tour to overcome the obstacles on the path of peace, we would like to reiterate that the EC can play a more effective role within the framework of the ongoing efforts to end the impasse in the peace talks and to urge the Israeli side to end the policy of procrastination and prevarication it has followed since the beginning of the peace process.

Although we do not seek a European role different from or opposed to the U.S. role, we do call for a complementary role for Europe. This European role can converge with and support the S. efforts. It can even correct some aspects, particularly at this slow stage in which any stalemate might bring things back to square one.

We call for such a European role and emphasize its importance on all occasions because we know Europe understands, more than others, the prevailing situation in the Middle East. We know Europe has more vital interests in the region than others do and has neighborly and cultural and historical ties with the people in the Middle East. This qualifies Europe, more than others, to understand the existing situation, tackle it by concentrating on the main concerns of the people in the region, and to find common denominators among the nations of the region.

As we welcome the British Foreign Office efforts as a sign of the possibility of reviving the expected European role within the ongoing peace process, we will tirelessly continue to call for a more coordinated and more effective European endeavor. This endeavor should be shouldered by the larger economic community, in light of its historical and moral responsibilities, investing its good relations with all involved parties to break the stalemate and remove the obstacles to the peace process in order to achieve the desired peaceful turnabout in the Middle East.

Stronger European Role in Peace Process Encouraged

JN2107105793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jul 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The European Role in the Peace Process is an Urgent Need"]

[Text] It seems that a European movement is under way to participate, in one way or another, in activating the peace process in the region. There is talk in the French capital about the beginning of a French move and the need for an effective European role to activate the peace process.

Since this French move coincides with the British move, represented by Douglas Hogg's regional tour, we can say there is a European awakening and a common Arab desire to participate in the peace process or play some role in it.

Therefore, this is a positive and necessary step by the two major influential countries in the EC.

Isolating the EC from the peace process and enabling the U.S. Administration unilaterally to sponsor the peace process and participate fully in it—in words rather than deeds—has largely paralyzed the talks and pushed them into this serious impasse. It is known that the isolation of the EC and the obstruction of the European role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict were the result of Israel's policies and U.S. pressures, because the EC clearly supported the convening of an international peace conference on the basis of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace

principle. Also, the EC still strongly supports the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly their right to self-determination and to establishing their independent state on their national soil. Thus, Washington and Tel Aviv cooperated to isolate the EC and paralyze its role in this regard.

Now that the U.S. Administration has failed to achieve any success in the Arab-Israeli talks throughout the 10 difficult and exhausting rounds, to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, and to force Israel to implement them, the EC should be given an opportunity to play an effective role in activating the negotiations in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region, particularly since the EC shows a clear desire and significant concern to play its role in the peace process.

This concern was clearly expressed by Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, during his visit to Jordan and his meetings with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and Jordanian officials. France also expressed, through many officials, its concern to activate the peace talks and its desire to participate in rendering them a success. And the French-Palestinian talks reiterate this French and European desire.

Therefore, the cordon states should exert great efforts to pave the way for the EC, and Britain and France in particular, directly to participate in the peace process. This is because unilateral American sponsorship of the talks could not soften Israeli intransigence at all or force the Rabin government to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

Media Reaction to King's London Lecture Noted

JN2007125793

[Editorial Report] Jordanian media have not been observed to report or comment on King Husayn's criticism of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during a lecture at the United Services Institute for Defense Studies in London, as reported by the London newspaper THE TIMES. An Amman radio report on the king's lecture at the Institute was published on page 30 of the 20 July issue of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT.

Editorializing on the king's remarks, Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B on 18 July focused on the king's statement that "the Palestinian problem is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict" and that Jerusalem should remain a "symbol of peace and tolerance." It made no mention of the king's criticism of the Iraqi leadership. No other paper has been observed to comment on the king's London lecture.

Commenting on Iraq's "National Day" in the 17 July issue of AL-DUSTUR, columnist Tahir al-'Adwan criticizes those who blame Iraq and its leadership. He says: "Regarding the embargo imposed on Iraq, the suffering of its people, and the fierce onslaught against it by the enemies everywhere, we always choose the easy way to deal with the problem by saying that Iraq and its leadership are the ones to blame. We do not dare to admit or publicly declare that this world is wrong, that the will of the Security Council is unjust, and that it is an immoral world. The strong are always immoral, so just imagine how things would be if the strong are America and world Zionism!"

Columnist Discusses Continued 'Siege' of al-'Aqabah

JN2107124893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jul 93 p 26

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "What is Behind the Siege of al-'Aqabah?"]

[Text] It is useless to talk about improved or even normalized Jordanian-U.S. ties, as long as the U.S. fleet continues to lay unlawful siege on al-'Aqabah port—conduct which is deemed an act of war by international law.

The continued siege of al-'Aqabah port, the delaying and searching of al-'Aqabah-bound ships, and the exclusion of those heading for Syrian, Turkish, Iranian, or Saudi ports, have only one political meaning; that is, the United States does not trust the Jordanian Government, nor does it believe its pronouncements on compliance with the sanctions regulations. What we have stated is a fact although everybody knows that the Jordanian-Iraqi borders are the only borders with Iraq along which the arbitrary UN Security Council resolutions are being observed stringently. The only restriction governing the movement of commodities along Iraq's borders with other countries is Iraq's ability to pay in cash; and this fact is acknowledged by the U.S. Embassy in Amman, which is well informed about the issue.

It is implicitly clear that the objective of the U.S. siege of al-'Aqabah is to move trade with Iraq to the ports of the countries which joined the bandwagon of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq to reward them financially for their supportive stand, and also to punish the Jordanian people, because democracy in Jordan has allowed the Jordanians to express their views freely and to condemn the anti-Iraq embargo, which has lost its legal and moral justifications and turned into an effort exclusively aimed at starving and intimidating the fraternal Iraqi people.

We believe that the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people reflects a persistent endeavor to humiliate and subjugate the entire Arab nation through forcing Arabs to line up behind the enemy against Iraq, an Arab country. This picture drastically contrasts with the state of affairs in the fifties, when aggression against an Arab country, such as Egypt, elicited sanctions imposed and enforced on the aggressors' ships and aircraft by Arab workers everywhere.

It is not true that the United States is seeking to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. This task has already been accomplished, as UN experts have acknowledged. The aim of the United States is to destroy the cultural, scientific, and technological infrastructure of an entire people. Experts have destroyed the weapons and equipment used for producing them. What remains is to eliminate engineers on the pretext that they possess the expertise and know-how necessary to rebuild what evil powers have destroyed to promote Israeli and Zionist interests.

The number of ships anchoring at al-'Aqabah port has dwindled to nine per month after it was 20 a year and a

half ago, and 30 before the eruption of the Gulf crisis. As for ship delays, rising insurance premiums, and additional transport activities from other ports, they are costing the Jordanian economy almost $500 million per year, which is 10 percent of the gross national product.

The continuation of the siege on al-'Aqabah is an encroachment on Jordan's interests and dignity.

Minister Denies Relations With Cairo 'Stagnant'

NC2107101993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0803 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Amman, 21 Jul (MENA)—Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar has stated that Egyptian-Jordanian economic, trade, and tourism relations are proceeding along a sound, natural path. He announced: I expect only good to come of these relations.

In an interview with MENA's Amman correspondent, Abu-Nuwwar said consultations are continuing between the two countries, and there is no reason to describe relations as stagnant.

Commenting on the prospect of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, the Jordanian minister asserted that Jordan has not made a decision accepting or rejecting such a confederal system. He pointed out that the Palestinians, however, might have made some decision about this issue, but this was not discussed by the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee. He said it is important for the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate rights first, then both sides can discuss the confederation issue.

Dr. Abu-Nuwwar added: We would like future agreements to serve the good of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, because they have joint interests. Both sides must use the same language in addressing the Israelis, the Arab brothers, and the world so as to avoid hurting each other or their mutual interests in respect of water resources, laws, the economy, security, and borders.

The Jordanian information minister continued: We will coordinate efforts so that the Palestinian people can achieve their legitimate rights. Perhaps the need will arise for closer cooperation because of the special character of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. We might then think of "a particular formula" for future relations between the two sides, either federal or confederal or in some other form, such as a common market or cooperation over the optimum use of water resources.

Abu-Nuwwar stressed that his country will do nothing about this until the Palestinians obtain their rights and until it becomes certain that the Palestinian autonomy will enable the Palestinian people to make their own decisions, because it is the people who must determine the future formula, not a transitional government, the negotiating delegation, or any other party.

The information minister said: If the Palestinian people vote for confederation with Jordan, we will then ask the Jordanian people to decide what they want.

He denied that the formation of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee was connected in any way with King Husayn's recent talks in Washington. He said its formation was connected with events during the 10th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations and the decision to form it was made during the king's meeting with Palestinian President 'Arafat before the king left for Washington.

Answering a question about Jordan's overall Arab relations, Abu- Nuwwar said: We do not feel there is any conflict between us and any other Arab country. We are willing to attend any inter-Arab meeting and always hasten to throw the door wide for any Arab country, using direct or indirect means. The Jordanian information minister said his country dispatched envoys in this connection only in two cases, once to Bahrain and once to Qatar, saying: We received invitations, so we went.

Commenting on elections and the prospect of amending the Election Law, Dr. Abu-Nuwwar said the Cabinet has not discussed or made an official decision on the amendment issue, although the issue is constantly on officials' minds.

Prime Minister Receives Cuban Parliamentarian

JN2007165493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Dr. Rodrigo Cambras, member of the Cuban House of Representatives, at his office today. The Cuban official is currently visiting Jordan as part of a regional tour. The Cuban ambassador to Jordan and the director of the prime minister's office attended.

Cambras conveyed greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castro to Jordan, its king, government, and people. He said he has been charged by the Cuban parliament to tour the region to explain the effects of the blockade imposed on his country. He said the Cuban parliament had adopted a resolution supporting Jordan's position on the Middle East question and the peace process in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

The prime minister said he hopes trade cooperation with Cuba will be improved, and welcomed the outcome of the recent summit by leaders of Latin America states. He said: Jordan knows what the word blockade means. The Port of al-'Aqabah is subjected to inspection harassment, but, despite that, Jordan abides by the UN resolutions out of concern for the credibility of compliance by them, especially with Resolutions 242 and 338. The success of the peace process hinges on the application of these two resolutions.

During the meeting, the two officials stressed the importance of improving bilateral ties and increasing trade exchanges to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Prime Minister Receives Refugee Camp Figures

JN2007194893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said: We in Jordan, as our leader His Majesty King Husayn says, constitute a single Jordanian family, regardless of our origins. Every citizen is a Jordanian as long he believes in

this system and this country, and respects it and feels an affiliation for it. Everyone who believes in this land has the same duties and rights. We on this land are brothers in blood, faith, destiny, and future.

Dr. al-Majali made these statements when he received a delegation representing public figures at the al-Wahdat [Palestinian refugee] camp at the Prime Ministry this evening. Al-Majali said: Rights must gain supremacy and return to their rightful owners.

Dr. al-Majali reviewed several subjects, particularly the efforts now being exerted in the peace process to reach a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution in the region which will be acceptable to future generations. He noted that since the Madrid conference, negotiations have established the Palestinian entity as a respectable, civilized entity, as has been the case with the Jordanian entity. Each entity has its own personality, he added.

He emphasized Jordan's adherence to its national principles and said it will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians and is committed to a comprehensive solution on all tracks.

Delegation members voiced appreciation for the government's domestic and foreign policies, as well as the way the government is dealing with issues of concern to the citizens. They stressed their support for the government's policy, which agrees with the citizens' public interest, and their adherence to, and support for, national unity, which was entrenched by His Majesty King Husayn.

SAM-7 Missile Fired 'for First Time' at Israeli Planes

NC2107052993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The situation in the south remains tense as the Israeli Army continues to bring in reinforcements. Israeli jets and helicopters reportedly overflew the central sector last night, concentrating on the villages of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, al-Qantarah, and Wadi al-Saluqi and dropping thermal balloons.

Citing a security source, AFP reported the Israeli planes conducted mock raids against Hizballah bases in the south. A surface-to-air SAM-7 missile was fired for the first time against the Israeli planes, but hit none. The same source said Hizballah fighters and Lebanese Army soldiers stationed in the central sector fired at the Israeli planes.

Defense Minister on Israeli Actions

NC2107061693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0522 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by an unidentified radio correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good morning, Your Excellency.

[Dallul] Good morning to you.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, Syria and Israel exchanged announcements yesterday. Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq threatened to carry out a military operation north of the border security strip in south Lebanon and Syria responded, saying it will not remain a spectator to such a development. A SAM-7 missile was fired at raiding Israeli aircraft—the first time something like this has happened. How do you, as the Lebanese defense minister, assess the situation?

[Dallul] Naturally, we will not remain silent about any attack on us. We will fight to the extent of our capabilities and resources. This is not the first time Israel has entered, intervened in, or pressured Lebanon. It did this before, paying a high price before 1982, in 1982, and since 1982. If Israel suffers considerable harm through the resistance operations—themselves a consequence of its occupation of part of south Lebanon and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi—what price will it pay if it extends its attacks? It will be the biggest loser in the operation. Only one group carries out resistance acts, but the entire Lebanese people will become a resistance force if Israel extends its attacks.

[Correspondent] Israel is using pressure to halt the resistance operations, offering to cool things down if they are halted.

[Dallul] The resistance is the result of the Israeli occupation of our territory. It is not an issue of heating up or cooling down the situation. The resistance is not the result of a volatile situation, but the consequence of hostile occupation and the presence of Israeli troops on our territory. When they leave our land, there will be no resistance. It will end. We have repeatedly declared this. We are offering assurances to all international forums: Resistance will end when the Israeli occupation of our territory ends.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Minister.

[Dallul] Don't mention it.

Explosive Device Goes Off Near SLA Patrol; No Casualties

NC2107150093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] According to our military correspondent, an explosive device went off this afternoon as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was passing in the western sector of the border zone. The blast, however, did not cause any casualties.

Israeli Buildup in Lebanon, Christopher Tour Viewed

JN2107080393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli arms and troops buildup in southern Lebanon, which has been described as the largest since 1982, and which aims to prepare for a large-scale offensive against Lebanon in order to create a new situation on the ground to turn the negotiating tables upside down and allow the Tel Aviv rulers to continue to evade the requirements of peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel has continued to view southern Lebanon as a pressure card that it can use to its advantage against Lebanon and the Arabs in the peace negotiations for purposes of blackmail. It thinks that it can use this card to dictate the terms that would legitimize the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem in violation of all international laws, and in contravention of the terms of reference agreed on for the Madrid conference and the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The increasing threats being made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin against Lebanon are actually targeting the upcoming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. These threats seek to render this tour devoid of any meaningful content before it even starts. These threats are also aimed at what might remain of the hopes for the success of the peace process. They also aim to undermine the credibility of the full partner role pledged by the United States.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Aggression cannot be the alternative to the implementation of international resolutions, nor can it, for that matter, halt Lebanon's efforts to regain its occupied territory in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. Rabin, along with the generals of the Israeli military establishment, will be gravely mistaken if they believe that their new military adventure would yield expected results and be free of risks.

In a commentary entitled "Rabin's Delusions," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that Israel has delineated the geographic borders that would ensure its safety, noting that he is willing to make painful concessions. However, Rabin has failed to identify these borders. Similarly, he has failed to explain what he means by concessions.

TISHRIN adds: Rabin's statements are reminiscent of his earlier statements, and which failed to be translated on the ground. We are here referring to his statements that he would achieve a peaceful settlement within a period not exceeding nine months from the time he assumed the premiership of the Israeli Government. Now that his premiership is entering its second year, this deadline, which he himself set, has lapsed. However, the peace process has thus far failed to achieve any positive results.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Throughout the past 10 rounds of peace talks, the Israeli Government has shown an ingrained enmity toward true peace. This has been confirmed by the statements made by Rabin and his cabinet ministers regarding adherence to occupied Arab territories, limited or partial withdrawals, continued settlement activities, determination not to withdraw to the pre-1967 borders, as well as determination to keep Jerusalem as the eternal and unified capital of Israel.

TISHRIN says: Things will never be straightened out as long as Israel maintains its current stand and continues to promote falsehoods and lies. The issue is not open for debate and differing interpretations. Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories must be terminated. As for Rabin's allegations regarding his willingness to make concessions, they only confirm that the Israelis want the peace process to allow them to keep what they claim to be their own territory, and to share Arab territory with the Arabs.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: While speaking of concessions, Rabin might have sought to promote the Zionist leaders' belief that the territory currently under Zionist control is theirs, and that the territory currently under Arab control must be shared by Zionists and Arabs. If he thinks that he can realize this postulate, he is harboring delusions. This is because Arab territory will remain Arab. Also, there must be complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories if just and comprehensive peace is to be achieved.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the expected return to the region by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for Middle East peace talks, to prepare for the upcoming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher toward the end of this month, saying: This shows that U.S. diplomacy is continuing its political moves to push the peace process forward in order to hold a new round of peace talks between the parties concerned.

AL-BA'TH adds: During his latest tour of the region, Dennis Ross failed to achieve the important results that could have pushed the peace process toward a just peaceful settlement, thanks to the intransigent and anti-peace Israeli stand. The failure of Ross's tour of the region has prompted the Clinton administration to intensify its diplomatic efforts through the launching of a new tour by Christopher.

AL-BA'TH notes the escalation of the Rabin government's military threats against Lebanon, which is designed to bring further pressure to bear on all parties concerned with the peace process, which would create a tense climate for the U.S. secretary of state and further complicate his mission.

AL-BA'TH also notes the reemergence of the European role, underscored by Douglas Hogg's tour of the region to help make rapid progress in the peace talks.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: There is no competition between the U.S. and European roles. However, the European role has special significance. Consequently, it must assume its proper dimensions by putting

pressure on Israel to make it respond to international legitimacy. Thus, it will complement the U.S. role, if it is meant to do so.

Israeli Statement on 'Painful Compromises' Derided

JN2107084793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli prime minister has returned to his old talk about peace with Syria. This time, however, he spoke about his readiness to make—what he called—painful compromises, as if he is relinquishing something he owns, rather than land occupied through aggression. He also noted that these compromises will not involve more than a withdrawal on the Golan, not from the Golan. It is known that Syria has always said that peace depends on complete Israeli withdrawal. Rabin admitted that peace with Syria is important. However, peace on all fronts remains more important. Syria has always declared that it seeks a comprehensive peace and a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

The question is: If the Israeli prime minister is really interested in peace, as he said, why is he placing obstacles in the way of the Washington talks? Why does he not implement the Security Council resolutions organizing the peace process, knowing that a comprehensive peace is a real guarantee for regional security and stability?

The past and present Israeli rulers know full well that the Palestine question is the cause of all Arabs, and Syria in particular. They also know that Syrian-Lebanese relations are founded on blood and common destinies, that what harms Lebanon also harms Syria, and that Syria cannot just stand and watch the pain and suffering of the Lebanese brothers. From this premise, Syria considers southern Lebanon a Syrian cause as much as it is a Lebanese cause. The Israeli rulers also know that Syria considers Arab security indivisible and that it will not conclude a settlement at all at the expense of this or that Arab country.

Since all Arab parties interested in peace participate in the Washington talks and seek—honestly and with responsibility—a comprehensive and just settlement that would end the whirlpool of wars in the Middle East and open doors of prosperity for its states, what prevents Israel from responding to a just peace and from achieving real progress on all tracks instead of creating obstacles and evading the requirements of the Security Council resolutions, particularly withdrawal from the occupied territory?

The Lebanese, who are exposed to daily savage aggressions by the Israeli forces and their agents, only want to restore their occupied land in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425. They also expressed a readiness to deploy the Lebanese Army throughout the border area and to maintain security in it. Israel, however, refused to discuss any withdrawal from the south, stirred up the situation, and mobilized forces, threatening the Lebanese Government day and night with large-scale operations, thereby violating the bases of peace and the Madrid conference and the Security Council resolutions.

The Palestinians expressed readiness to accept the plan of an interim self-rule government provided that its boundaries and powers cover Jerusalem and the settlements. Israel, however, threatened to end the talks if the issue of Jerusalem was raised again and considered the settlements part of its sovereignty.

Since the end of the sixth round, Syria has presented a balanced and objective paper calling for full peace in exchange for full withdrawal. Israel's stand was represented by its evasion and prevarication, hinting at some withdrawal from the Golan and making some ambiguous statements.

The peace which Yitzhaq Rabin talked about can be achieved provided that Israel fully withdraws from the occupied Arab territory and recognizes Palestinian rights. However, the ambiguous hints of a so-called painful compromise on this or that front while the other fronts are the target of Israeli aggressions will not lead to the desired peace. The occupied territories are Arab territories, and by withdrawing from them Israel will not be making concessions to others but will be restoring rights to their owners in accordance with the will of the international community, the principles of justice, and the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace which is the only guarantee for security and stability in the region.

Lebanese Officials Discuss Christopher Visit

NC2107060193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri left Zahlah for Damascus yesterday, where they met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] reported that Khaddam hosted a dinner in honor of Birri and al-Hariri last night.

The agency said the talks dealt with the situation in the region and in Lebanon in light of developments. The NNA said Birri and al- Hariri also met Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and discussed the situation in Lebanon and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's tour of the region at the end of July.

Ba'th Party Official Receives Chinese Delegation

JN2007105993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 20 Jul (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], today received the delegation of the CPC Central Party School led by Fu Xianbin, deputy secretary general of the Central Party School. The meeting was attended by China's ambassador in Damascus.

The talks during the meeting dealt with relations of cooperation between the ASBP and the CPC and ways to develop them. The two sides underscored the importance of exchanging experiences between the two friendly parties, particularly in the field of training party and political

cadres, as well as the importance of exchanging views and consultations to serve the interests of both countries.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed Syria's achievements and development plans toward building a new society. He also noted Arab and international developments, affirming the principled constants from which Syria proceeds in dealing with the overall issues, particularly the peace process which Israel is still obstructing.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the desire of the Arabs in general, and Syria in particular, to establish a just and comprehensive peace that restores Arab territory and rights to their owners, and to implement Security Council resolutions providing for this.

The Chinese delegation praised the development, progress, and achievements they had seen in Syria. The delegation also stressed the strong relations between the ASBP and the CPC as well as between the two friendly peoples, the Chinese and the Arab people, wishing Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, more progress and prosperity.

Al-Shar' Confers With Romanian Parliamentarians

JN2107152993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received a visiting Romanian parliamentary delegation led by Teodor Ardanian, Senate vice chairman and deputy head of the National Unity Party [title as heard]. He was joined by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab and International Affairs Committee; Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the East European Desk at the Foreign Ministry; and Ion Mielcioiu, the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they discussed the international situation and developments in the Balkan region. They tackled developments in the peace process, as well as relations between Syria and Romania. In this regard, both sides stressed their eagerness to activate and bolster cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

The Romanian delegation highly valued Syria's wise policy, as well as its important role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

The Romanian parliamentary delegation arrived in Damascus this morning on an eight-day visit to Syria. It was received at Damascus International Airport by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab and International Affairs Committee, the Romanian ambassador in Damascus and Romanian Embassy staff, and the Assembly's chief of Protocol and Public Relations.

The visiting delegation will hold talks and meetings with senior officials on ways to promote parliamentary and bilateral relations between the two countries in the service of their mutual interests and issues.

Bulgarian Socialist Party Delegation Holds Talks

JN2107130993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] A round of political talks was held at the Ba'th Party National Command this morning between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and a Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] delegation led by Zhan Videnov, BSP president.

The two sides reviewed relations between both parties and countries and ways to promote them to serve the interests of both peoples. They reviewed current developments in both countries and regions and the activity of both parties as part of these developments.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the march of construction and the achievements of the Syrian Arab people under the leadership of comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He discussed efforts by Syria and its leader to bolster Arab solidarity and move toward the achievement of Arab unity.

Comrade al-Ahmar discussed the regional peace process. He pointed to the Arabs' serious desire to achieve a comprehensive and just peace to regain Arab territories and rights for their rightful owners, stressing the need to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He said: More than 20 months have passed since the peace process began, but so far this process has not produced any tangible results, due to Israel's intransigence and its refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Videnov explained Bulgaria's situation in view of international developments, particularly in Eastern Europe. He stressed the BSP's determination to continue its cooperation with other Bulgarian parties for Bulgaria's progress and continued development. Videnov stressed his party's support for the central Arab cause, emphasizing the need to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy in this regard to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, regain the occupied Arab territories, and recognize the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

The meeting reviewed world developments since the end of the cold war between the United States and the former Soviet Union, and the proposal to establish a new world order. Videnov highly appreciated Syria's policy on various issues under comrade President Hafiz al-Asad. He commended the achievements and changes he saw and sensed in Syria.

At the conclusion of this session, the need to continue bilateral meetings was emphasized, in order to hold consultations between the leaders of both parties on various issues of interest to both parties and countries.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar: Cabinet To Include Militia Representatives

PM2007140193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jul 93 p8

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan report: "Hekmatyar Tells AL-HAYAH: The Cabinet Will Include the Militias in the Government"]

[Text] Peshawar—In an interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday, Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar said that the cabinet recently agreed to give two cabinet portfolios to the followers of Uzbek militia leader General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. In the interview, by radio from his headquarters in Chahar Asiab, south of Kabul, Hekmatyar said this is still subject to the approval of the majority of the mojahedin leaders.

Reliable Afghan sources returning from Kabul to Peshawar recently told AL-HAYAH, however, that the decision has already been submitted to President Rabbani for approval to allow the selection of two ministers who who will be figures who joined Dostam after his alliance with the mojahedin to bring down the former communist regime.

Hekmatyar made the ministerial portfolios for the militias conditional on them abandoning the strategic positions they hold in Kabul.

Qaribolrahman Sa'id, the prime minister's spokesman, told AL-HAYAH after his return from Kabul that the cabinet decided to form an Islamic army of 90,000 mojahedin from all provinces. In accordance with an agreement signed between the two states, 35,000 policemen will be trained in Pakistan.

According to informed Afghan sources, the recent Russian-Tajik attacks on Afghan territory in the north may have expedited the formation of such an army to be deployed on the Afghan borders.

As regards the collection of the heavy weapons in Kabul, Sa'id said that a committee consisting of four ministers was recently formed and has already begun collecting Kabul's heavy weapons and storing them in special places. Every party assigned three of its members to the committee in charge of the collection of heavy weapons.

Government's Inaction of Creating Army Assailed

LD2007215593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Commentary by BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Forces of the CIS led by Russia continue their attacks against the teritorial integrity of our country. Following an understanding that the Russian defense minister reached with the puppet authorities in Tajikistan, Russia will station more troops on Afghan-Tajik border. The BAKHTAR political commentator, analyzing the situation, writes:

The concentration of the CIS military forces is an act of revenge for the defeats that the former Soviet forces suffered in Afghanistan. This has become a cause of concern to the people in Afghanistan, the region, and even Russia itself. Such a situation requires that, in addition to diplomatic measures, further practical preparations be made for the defense of territorial integrity and [words indistinct]. This requires that the government and esteemed prime minister himself take action in order to safeguard territorial integrity. So far, however, it seems that the esteemed prime minister, based in a small place far away from the capital, is occupied with works that [words indistinct] .

Every country needs a powerful, well-equipped army enjoying discipline and [word indistinct] to protect its state sovereignty during a crisis. But in our country's crisis, action is being taken to weaken the foundation of an Islamic Army. In the program of the esteemed prime minister there has been talk of a number of separate armies instead of the establishment of a single powerful army. Under conditions where we are faced with the direct aggression of the CIS Army, we have neither a minister of defense nor a minister of internal affairs. The authorities of the country [word indistinct] esteemed prime minister have not taken action in this respect and delays block agreements in this connection. It is necessary for the president and prime minister of the country to put an end to this matter by taking specific action. The television and radio associated with Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of esteemed Hekmatyar, the prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, voice propaganda that does not take the high interests of the country [words indistinct] and serves party and personal interests. In the opinion of the BAKHTAR political commentator, the government's present measures do not respond to the urgency of the current problems. By delaying reaching agreement on appointments to senior military positions, the government may be creating fresh problems.

Rabbani Pardons Absentee Military Personnel

LD2007203793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has issued the following decree pardoning the absence from duty of officers and noncommissioned officers of the Islamic Army:

Acting on the basis of the Islamic and humanitarian policy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in order to care for and assist military personnel and for the enhancement of military readiness and the establishment of military discipline, the following are approved:

Pardon for the absence of those officers and noncommissioned officers of the Armed Forces and of the Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs and of the General Department of National Security and other military organs who have not been able to report to their units for various reasons, providing they report to personnel departments by 22 August 1993. The period in which they have been absent from duty will not be counted as a part of their service nor will they be entitled to their salaries and other

privileges. The appointment, transfer, and [word indistinct] of the officers and NCO's can only be carried out through personnel departments of the Armed Forces. Esteemed jehadi organizations and units of the Armed Forces shall refrain from the illegal recruitment of officers and NCO's and from issuing service certificates to them. The Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs, the General Department of National Security, and other military organs shall take action regarding their absence from duty through public prosecution and courts martial under the provisions of the law on military crimes if they do not report to the relevant personnel departments by 22 August 1993.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Rabbani Meets With Presidency Officials

LD2007201393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning with officials and head of departments of the State Presidency at Golkhana Hall.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that to begin with Najmoddin Mosleh, the head of administration of the state presidency, spoke briefly about the activities of the relevant departments. Esteemed Professor Rabbani, in his comprehensive review, then drew the attention of presidency personnel to their duties. He said: The Islamic State of Afghanistan has been formed on the principles of Islamic aims and aspirations and as a result of a 14-year jihad by the country's brave mojahedin. It is for you, the staff of the state presidency, to act as responsible people of Islamic aspirations and accomplish your tasks as your Islamic duty.

The president talked about the current developments in the country's situation and added that the people of Afghanistan are now passing through critical moments of their history. We are the inheritors of great problems and of the destruction caused by past regimes. It is up to us to try to solve these problems.

The esteemed president said that the world is watching to see if Afghanistan disintegrates and is unable to establish security and stability. However, we are witnessing security and tranquillity in Kabul as well as in other provinces of the country, he said. We see that the situation is now improving and our Islamic state is striving toward the realization of Islamic aims. God willing, all the problems with which our country is faced will be solved with the help of Almighty God. [passage omitted]

Peace Commission Member Dies in Traffic Accident

LD2007162093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Excerpts] We have heard with sorrow that esteemed Mola Mir Hamza, member of the peace commission and jehadi commander, was martyred yesterday in a traffic incident. He was traveling from Paghman District to Chahar Asiab. [passage omitted]

Four members of the commission were also injured.

Saudi Envoy Promises Medical Assistance

LD2007172193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Saudi Arabia is ready to provide medicine and medical equipment to hospitals in the Afghan capital and provinces. According to a BAKHTAR report, this matter was raised at a meeting between Public Health Minister Sayd Mohammad Amin Fatemi and 'Abu Mohammad al-Sa'ud, deputy ambassador of the Saudi Embassy in Kabul.

The incidence of disease in the country including cholera, vomiting, food poisoning, and other health problems was discussed. As a result, on behalf of the Saudi Government the envoy promised all sorts of cooperation with Afghanistan in the medical sphere and in the reconstruction of the country.

Bangladesh

Opposition Strike Ends Without Major Incident

BK1907152993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Dhaka, July 19 (AFP)—An eight-hour nationwide general strike Monday [19 July] called by 15 Bangladeshi opposition parties to protest against corruption and call for a ban on an Islamic group ended without any major incident.

Except for minor incidents the stoppage passed-off peacefully amid sporadic monsoon rains, residents and security sources said.

This was first such united action by the opposition since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to power in 1991.

Zia recently rejected opposition graft charges against some of her cabinet members and said it was a "conspiracy" to foil her administration's efforts to develop impoverished Bangladesh.

Police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles were posted Monday in the capital, Dhaka, and patrolled in trucks and jeeps as the stoppage ended at 2:00 p.m. (0800 GMT).

In some areas activists pelted passing police vehicles with stones and police made several arrests, witnesses said.

Schools were closed but the shutters of shops and offices slowly opened as the strike ended.

Local reporters in the key port cities of Chittagong and Khulna reported that the strike passed off peacefully, but was widely observed. Work in both places was affected by the stoppage, they said.

Sources said inter-district bus and air services were hit, but railway officials said their services were not affected.

The opposition had united against Zia's government after failing to obtain the dismissal of allegedly corrupt ministers and the banning of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Despite official denials of corruption, the two sides recently set up a 15-member special parliamentary committee which is expected to begin investigating graft charges against Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Majid-ul Huq.

The anti-fundamentalist Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators of Bangladesh's 1971 independence war linked the anti-corruption strike to its demand for the trial of Golam Azam, the controversial chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami, for alleged crimes committed during the war.

It was not possible to say what proportion of the strikers were in support of which issue.

The government has repeatedly said that Azam, freed last week after 16-month's detention for violating the Foreigners' Act, would be tried under the laws of the land, but did not specify a time frame or under what law.

The oppposition-backed committee represents war veterans, families of the war dead, writers and artists.

However the powerful Sramik Karmachari Okiya Parishad, a conglomerate of 16 trade unions, late Sunday postponed a 48-hour nationwide stoppage and rail and road blockade after the government partially conceded to its demands for more pay.

Also Sunday, the government in an oblique warning to the strikers said that 230 people had been arrested over the past 10 months under the Anti-Terrorism Law, which allows for the death penalty and stipulates a minimum five-year prison term for blocking roads, damaging vehicles and illegal toll collection.

India

Visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Seeks Improved Relations

BK2007155093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] New Delhi, July 20 (AFP)—Afghanistan regrets India's backing for the Soviet-backed communist regime in Kabul but now wants friendly ties with New Delhi, Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala said here Tuesday [20 July].

"Let bygones be bygones," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted him as saying in an interview during the first high-level contact between the two countries since the communists' ouster.

Amin Arsala said Kabul regretted India's sustained support to former President Najibollah and the Soviet occupation of his country, but added that India can join other countries in the reconstruction of war-ravaged Afghanistan.

"The Indian Government is also looking forward to establishing a good relationship with Afghanistan," said the foreign minister, who on Monday met here with his Indian counterpart, Dinesh Singh.

Kabul, he added, would like New Delhi to supply it with medicines and other essential goods, besides expanding training facilities for Afghan students in India.

The Indian Government announced Monday that it had decided to reopen its embassy in Kabul, where most countries closed their diplomatic missions earlier this year during intense fighting between mojahedin groups.

Amin Arsala also denied that Afghanistan was involved in the Muslim campaign for secession in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. Indian officials have said scores of Afghans have joined forces with the guerrillas in Kashmir.

But Amin Arsala said it was "quite possible" that they were Arabs who had fought alongside the mojahedin against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

"This does not mean that they are Afghans," he said.

India was the strongest non-communist supporter of Najibollah until his fall last year. Though he is trapped in a United Nations compound in Kabul, his family lives in India.

Amin Arsala arrived here Friday from Switzerland. The Afghan Embassy said it was not known when he will return to Kabul.

Kazakhstani President Stops Over, Meets With Rao

BK2007160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] India and Kazakhstan have underlined the need to maintain secular ideals and agreed to work together to control fundamentalism and extremism. At a meeting in New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Kazakhstan president, Mr. Nazarbayev, also discussed matters of bilateral cooperation with specific emphasis on economic and scientific developments. Mr. Nazarbayev was on a brief transit halt in the capital. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan has offered India the use of its Baykonur Cosmodrome for launching satellites and rockets on a regular basis. The offer was extended by the visiting deputy prime minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. G.A. Abilsiitov, in New Delhi today while addressing a meeting organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry. He said the Kazakhstan Government will soon float an international company to manage the Baykonur Cosmodrome and invited Indian space research institutions and firms to have a stake in the company. The deputy prime minister is leading a 13-member high-power delegation to attend the first meeting of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission.

U.S. 'Pressure' Over Engines Result of Fear of Competition

BK2007123093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Commentary by Ajay K. Ray]

[Text] Russia's buckling under U.S. pressure to annul the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization]-Glavkosmos contract of 1991 for the supply of cryogenic rocket engines and related technology has come as a grim reminder that in today's unipolar world, America, as the only superpower, can dictate terms on international relations and any bilateral or multilateral agreement would be subject to its pressures; and India, a major South Asian power with its emerging technology capabilities, could hardly be tolerated by the Clinton administration.

The abrogation of 2,350-million-rupee rocket engine deal may be one effective move against India by the U.S. in its game of pressure tactics. In its hegemonistic game, the U.S. has taken shelter under MTCR—Missile Technology Control Regime—saying that the rocket engine deal is violative of the regime as India might use the engine for military purposes. This is totally fictitious and unfounded. Under the 1991 agreement, India has given firm undertaking that cryogenic engines and related technology will be exclusively employed for civilian space programs. More so, there was just no country in the world which was using that technology for missiles. About 60 nuclear nonproliferators, including some top U.S. scientists, have said in a report that India did not gain any new military significant capability with the Russian sale of cryogenic engines and technology. This technology with nonstorable liquid fuel loaded at super cold temperatures is too difficult and expensive to be used for ballistic missiles.

In the context of MTCR, which is basically voluntary agreement, the U.S. has been discriminatory in its attitude toward India. Even though China has expressed its inclination to subscribe to MTCR, the U.S. has failed to stop it from supplying M-11 and other missiles to Pakistan. The Chinese sale of intermediate-range missiles to Saudi Arabia and other countries, arranged through Pakistan, was encouraged. Also, Pakistan's indigenous missile program is largely supported by China through technology transfer.

More than MTCR, it is the U.S.-based companies which are behind the U.S. forcing Russia to back out of its contractual obligations. The USA sees a potential competitor in India in satellite launch field. The margin of profit is enormous and the USA does not want India to offer its services at a low rate. The Glavkosmos (Antrix) Corporation-India Space Industry Agency tie-up was soon to be in a position to offer launches at $14 million a shot for heavy satellites, while the going rate is $75 million.

Although Mr. Boris Yeltsin, during his visit to Delhi in January, solemnly vowed to honor the contract, he obviously could not resist the U.S. lure of providing access to the lucrative $3.2 billion a year market for commercial satellite launches. Washington has signed with the Russian space agency a $500-million agreement under which Moscow's rockets will launch eight U.S. satellites over the next seven years. Russia is reportedly seeking a quota of two or three launches a year from Baykonur space center out of a total of about 15 launches in the world every year. It is learned that the U.S. has also promised to help Russia in the construction of the international space station, (?Freedom).

The U.S.-Russia nexus based on political and commercial expediencies will not be allowed to administer any setback in India's space program and technology. About five years from now, India will have its engines from the Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicles, GSLV. The indigenous cryogenic engine project has made a good progress at the Liquid Propulsion System Center at Trivandrum. In order that the space programs were not delayed, the ISRO is also examining the possibility of modifying the GSLV to hurl pruned down versions of INSAT-2E and INSAT-3 series satellites. The GSLV can blast off without the cryogenic engines with satellites weighing up to 1,500 kg. India's march into space cannot be stopped, whatever the power equation after the fall of Soviet Union. It can at worst be delayed. In any case, India has no option but to go in for indigenization if it has to protect its sovereignty amid the prospects of increasing U.S. pressure.

Investment Proposals Worth 700 Million Rupees Approved

BK2007131093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The government has cleared foreign investment proposals to the tune of 70 crore rupees. The empowered committee on foreign investments met today in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. It approved 17 proposals, including two export-oriented units for the manufacture of computer software. The proposals were mainly from UK, Japan, Germany, and NRI's [nonresident Indians] based in the United States.

Pharmaceutical Firms Seek Liberalization of Sector

BK2107021093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0134 GMT 21 Jul 93

[By Madhu Nainan]

[Text] Bombay, July 21 (AFP)—Indian pharmaceutical firms are pushing for the lifting of controls and the delicencing of the drug industry in line with economic reforms launched two years ago.

The Indian Government is expected to unveil its much-delayed drug policy during the monsoon session of parliament which begins July 26, and leading pharmaceutical firms are pushing for liberalisation of the sector.

"Our expectations are not very tall. Why should we remain under controls when all other industries have been liberated?" said Anant Thakore, president of the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA).

Since coming to power in June 1991, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has dismantled quasi-socialist shackles from a number of domestic industries and moved towards a free market economy.

State controls remain, however, on a number of sectors including the pharmaceutical industry.

Drug firms here are under a dual system of controls. Price brakes are in place on 146 bulk drugs which account for 70 percent of total sales, and profitablity is restricted to between eight and 13 percent.

Prices were last reviewed in 1986, by the government's Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

"Price controls are a mismatch. They do not fit in a liberalised or market-friendly economy," said Chinubhai Shah, vice president of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

In fiscal 1992-93, Indian drug firms had a turnover of 1.83 billion dollars. Exports were worth 433 million dollars while imports hit 233 million dollars.

Thakore said that annual growth in domestic turnover was between 12 and 15 percent and estimated that domestic demand would reach 5.3 billion dollars by the year 2000.

"Although profits of between eight and 13 percent are permitted, profits of between only three and four percent were made in 1992-93, after several years of losses," said Thakore.

"Last year's profits were only because the government allowed some quick price hikes," he said, noting that "Indian drug prices are the cheapest in the world."

N.K. Gandhi of Lyka Laboratories said that "rising input costs due to liberalisation, inflation, devaluation of the rupee in 1991 and the Gulf War severely affected the industry's viability."

Industry sources said drug firms would not survive in the liberalised economy if price controls were not abolished, and "low profitablity means there is less money for research and development," said Gandhi.

Thakore dismissed fears that decontrolling the industry would lead to stiff price hikes. "Fears of price hikes are unjustified," he said.

"In the first year of decontrol there could be some hikes as adjustments take place.

"But with more than 250 firms in the organised sector and 8,000 in the small-scale sector no single company will be able to monopolise or get away with unjustified hikes," he said.

"Even today there is tremendous competition for market share."

Market leader Glaxo has only a five percent share of the market and there are companies with less than one percent market share, he said.

Industry sources said the government might find it politically difficult to decontrol prices when only 30 percent of the nearly 900 million Indians have access to modern medicine.

"A beginning could be made by reducing from 70 percent to 25 percent the number of bulk drugs under price control," said Chinubhai Shah, OPPI deputy chief and a top French pharmaceutical company executive here.

"We have offered to supply government hospitals with drugs at cheap prices so that the poor are insulated to some extent from price increases."

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Eduardo Faleiro said recently that although the government has recognised the need to delicense the pharmaceutical industry full decontrol of prices would not be possible.

Iran

Oil Minister: OPEC Quota for Iraq Necessary

LD2107110093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran believes the conditions for resolving the current crisis in the oil market are lowering overproduction, allocating a quota to Iraq within the framework of OPEC's production ceiling, and cooperating with the non-OPEC producers to reduce production.

[Begin Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh recording] The current oil crisis is the biggest crisis facing the market since 1986, thanks to the discussions between Iraq and the UN Security Council. The first reason is Iraq's resumption of production. The second reason is the overproduction of OPEC members, which is said to be between 500-600,000 barrels [per day]. Another reason is Kuwait's refusal to sign the resolution put forward at the last session. These are the main factors responsible for the current oil crisis. [end recording]

Aqazadeh was speaking to correspondents on the eve of the OPEC head's visit to Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, and also prior to the upcoming OPEC emergency session in Vienna. He referred to the issue of Iraq's quota, market saturation, and undertakings to be accepted by the members as the most important agenda of this session. On Iran's views at this session, he said:

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] The emergency session, to be held next week, is highly significant. The decision of the coming session can make the market normal again. The main points of consideration for the Islamic Republic are first: The session should be able to accommodate Iraq within the framework of the OPEC quota and no extra oil should be supplied to the market. It should also convince Kuwait to sign this session's resolution. If we are to succeed in solving these issues in the coming session, there is a great hope that the market will stabilize. Of course, in this connection I must add that the non-OPEC producers should also act in accordance with their commitment to reduce production. This crisis will not just harm the OPEC producers alone; it affects all the world producers and the international economy. [end recording]

Commentary Views Iraq-UN Negotiations, Weapons Accord

LD2007132893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0951 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United Nations and Baghdad have finally reached agreement, after a two-month crisis, on the supervision of Iraq's weapons, and they are due to continue their negotiations on other issues in New York.

Since the end of the oil war the Security Council has persistently used the carrot-and-stick method to pursue the task of controlling Iraq's weapons and destroying that country's weapons of mass destruction. In a series of retreats, Iraq has eventually submitted to the council's demands.

To control Iraq's weapons and to break Baghdad's resistance, the Security Council has so far issued permission to attack Iraq on several occasions and punitive measures have been taken by Western multinational forces based in the region. Iraq has consistently retreated from its hardline positions out of fear of these attacks and it has continuously gone down the path of compromise with the United Nations in the hope of bringing an end to the economic sanctions imposed on it by the Security Council three years ago when it occupied Kuwait.

Now that the task of destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction is ending and certain agreements have been reached between Iraq and the United Nations on permanent supervision over that country's weapon industries, Baghdad's rulers hope that this step will prove usefull in the current negotiations toward lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil sales.

The Security Council is currently prepared to accept the sale of $1.6 billion worth of crude oil during the next six months as long as it takes place under UN supervision and the resulting revenue is deposited into a special account, with 30 percent being used for the payment of war reparations and for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq wants the Security Council to lift all the sanctions imposed on the country and for there to be an end to all punishment imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait.

Political analysts believe that even if Iraq fulfills all the Security Council's demands, the sanctions against it will not be lifted and Iraq will not be accepted as an ordinary member of the international community, because by keeping Iraq in an undetermined status [shenavar negahdashtan], some Western countries, which have great influence in the Security Council, are pursuing hegemonistic aims in the sensitive Persian Gulf and Middle East region. For this reason, they are opposed to a clarification and resolution of Iraq's situation.

Over 3,000 Iraqi Shiites Enter Seeking Refuge

LD2007184293 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said here Tuesday [21 July] that 560 families comprising 3,182 persons entered the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past couple of days. 1,280 of the refugees persecuted at the hands of Ba'thist forces in southern Iraq are children, SAIRI said.

The refugees, who are all Shiites, are natives of the marshes in the south of Iraq and have suffered persecution since the end of U.S.-Iraq war of 1991. They lived in an environment that was below the lowest sanitary standards resulting from the economic blockade by the Ba'thist regime. As a result, most of them suffer from diseases caused by the unsanitary environment in the marshes.

The refugees arriving at a border point inside the Islamic Republic of Iran said that 47 marshlanders were arrested by Saddam's army while running from the area and taken to an unknown place.

Meanwhile, some 55 more Iraqi marshland residents crossed into Iran via southern borders on Monday. The number of the Iraqis who have taken refuge in Iran since last month has reached 3,000.

Talking to IRNA, Abdulali Abdurreza, who is a Tol-e resident in al-Basrah, complained about the bad economic situation in Iraq, especially in the southern marshes. Due to unfavorable economic situation the unemployment has reached an unprecedented rate in Iraq. Abdurreza said that if anyone complains about the conditions, he will undoubtedly be arrested or punished. "I myself witnessed the execution of two members of the opposition by the Ba'thist mercenaries," he said.

U.S. 'Pressure' on DPRK, Pyongyang 'Goodwill' Seen

NC2107063993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Commentary prepared by the News Commentaries Group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] Reports speak of agreements between the United States and North Korea on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms following several rounds of talks in Geneva. Under these agreements, Pyongyang will allow the inspection of its nuclear installations and, in return, Washington will assist North Korea. For its part, North Korea has agreed to start talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on nuclear issues and to allow this agency to inspect its nuclear installations.

If these agreements are true, they can be analyzed from two aspects. In the circumstances, the United States is trying to pressure countries that do not accept its supremacy and superiority. It has adopted three methods to achieve this end and uses one of these depending on the country it is confronting. In Iraq's case, it chooses military action, confident it could crush Iraq. For Libya, it uses the policy of pressure and isolates the country through an economic-political siege. And for North Korea, it has chosen the method of pressure coupled with talks, because North Korea has relatively advanced military technology and the United States cannot confront it easily.

Since his presidential campaign, Clinton has promised to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms in developing countries. North Korea was among those countries on which Clinton focused special attention. He tried through various means to pressure North Korea to accept his views.

From the missile attack on Iraq to the G-7 summit and his visit to South Korea, he tried to put the pressure on Pyongyang.

Another aspect is that North Korea's accepting that its nuclear installations should be inspected must be considered as Pyongyang's goodwill. This is the third time it has shown goodwill and flexibility in the tension in its relations with the United States. Accepting that it should talk with the United States to solve problems, postponing its decision to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact, and agreeing to allow the inspection of its nuclear installations all constitute flexibility by North Korea.

Pyongyang did announce it does not intend to confront the United States and the IAEA, saying it is seriously ready to cooperate with the Agency. North Korea also announced it does not intend to manufacture nuclear arms and can place its nuclear installations entirely under international supervision for nuclear research. But the U.S. policy of pressuring North Korea compelled it to adopt retaliatory policies, which, ultimately, led to crisis in the Korean peninsula and in U.S.-North Korean relations.

Daily: Mosad Helping Egyptians With 'Revolutionaries'

LD2107103693 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Wednesday [21 July] commented on the recent upsurge of activities by revolutionary Egyptian Muslims and stressed that Egyptians were determined to save their country at any cost. In its editorial the daily referred to the arrival in Cairo of a top-level delegation of the Zionist regime's intelligence agency (Mosad) to instruct Egyptian security forces with modern methods for the suppression of Muslim revolutionaries.

The Cairo-Tel Aviv cooperation not only had failed to solve problems of the Cairo regime but rather provided the ground for the infiltration of the Zionist regime in the country's security network, the daily remarked. It stressed that the Zionist regime, fearful of the domination of Islam in Egypt and of miscalculation of all its assessments during the past two decades, was trying to suppress Egyptian youths with the help of the Cairo regime in order to uproot anti-Zionist tendencies in the country forever.

"Although recent executions would be termed, by some arrogant media and even criminal leaders of the Cairo regime, as a show of power, in reality it is an ill-fated struggle which will bring no benefit to the Cairo regime but rather intensifies wrath and hatred of the nation," the article noted. It concluded by saying that the ever-increasing dimension of the people's attacks on the foundations of the Egyptian regime indicated that the Egyptians were firm to save their country and would achieve their goal even by sacrificing their valiant youths.

U.S. Stance Against Islamism Seen Heading for Defeat

NC2007161193 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jul 93 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Ziayi: "The United States and Islamism"]

[Text] In his most recent anti-Iranian stance, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told CNN: Iran is the major element and center of Islamism. The United States should strongly oppose Tehran's participation in international society and in the world's economic system.

Christopher also said: The United States is preparing a draft statement on the condemnation of Iran and on world sanctions against it for the G-7 summit (which will convene in Tokyo this week). Christopher added: Iran has upset the balance of power in the Middle East and threatens U.S. world interests.

Islamism is a "unique phenomenon" and Iran's powerful leadership has enraged every power center. It is within this context that Washington has officially undertaken the fight against Islamism. The West's prominent theoreticians believe that the West's values and civilization and its global interests are being threatened like never before and that behind this threat there is a force known as "Islamism."

Islamism is the most powerful political-ideological power of the age and is pushing the entire international atmosphere toward great political upheaval. In this "upheaval of power," Islamism is the element that plays an outstanding and independent role that influences world developments.

The Westerners believe that Islam is gradually becoming an international and extraregional power, no longer affecting only the world of Islam but the entire international atmosphere. Within this context, it is Islamism that will have the last say in the world system of power. And Islamism is the major element in the West's inability to establish its world civilization and impose its leadership on that civilization.

The Westerners believe that in the world's second cold war, a type of full-fledged cultural-political war, a powerful and serious rival is emerging in the form of Islamism. The United States has, with the consent of all its European partners, undertaken the role of leader in the fight against Islamism. The United States considers itself to be the "number one enemy" of Islamism and the major rival to Islam.

Washington's failure to fulfill the theory of peaceful coexistence with Islamism and to understand the basic realities of this immense force has made the future of U.S. global interests ambiguous. America's official acceptance of the role of leader in the front against Islamism should be considered as an "uncalculated step" and an illogical move in the tattered diplomacy of this declining power. Actually, U.S. reaction to this growing and immense political power is characterized as shallow, sentimental, illogical, harsh, and suppressive. Washington's stance against Islamism

can only be considered to stem from a long-lasting and deep political enmity toward Islam.

The United States considers that the current process of Islamism in the Arab world represents only a radical minority and thus considers the rejection of Islamism as an international reality and an attack on the main source, Iran, to be the only redeeming strategy, the signs of the defeat of which are already visible. The United States plays the major role in all the current suppression and hostile stances against Islamism. Soon Washington will witness strong defeats for itself and its world interests.

* China, Korea, Europe To Invest in Tehran Metro

93LA0115E London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] This week the Tehran metro supervisor said: The Islamic Republic has asked Europe, China, and Korea to invest $670 million for the completion of the Tehran metro. Asghar Ebrahimi said: Chinese companies are willing to provide us with $300 million and European and Korean companies have also accepted the remaining cost of laying the two main lines. Ebrahimi said this as the deputy foreign minister of China was brought to watch the establishment of the Tehran metro.

Ebrahimi said: We have reached agreement with Mr. Li, deputy foreign minister of China, to obtain $125 million in credits and the metro's underground walkways will be built with this money. Reuter reports: Despite the fact that Iran is one of the main oil exporting countries, in recent years it has obtained loans from foreign countries to carry out its projects.

Ebrahimi said: Another project is being implemented to build an electric railroad from Tehran to Karaj, whose $20 million cost has been accepted by Australia.

Ebrahimi expressed the hope that the two main Tehran metro lines, which go from the west to the east and the north to the south in the capital, will go into operation by the year 1374 [21 Mar 1995-20 Mar 1996]. Ebrahimi said: So far 300 km of railroad has been built and 30 kilometers of tunnels have also been built.

* Uses of China's $270 Million Loan Detailed

93LA0115I London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] On 16 Tir [7 Jul] IRNA reported that China gave Iran two loans of $120 million and $150 million to build a cement factory and also to procure equipment for the Tehran metro. China also emphasized again that it intends to help Iran with the nonmilitary nuclear industry. This report was published at the end of a three-day visit to Tehran by Li Lanqing, deputy prime minister of China for foreign trade.

During this meeting China again announced that it is willing to help Iran build a nonmilitary nuclear plant with a capacity of 300 megawatts [MW]. The project to build a nuclear plant has been under study since Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Peking, which took place in September 1991, and so far several protocols concerning the cooperation between the two countries have been signed.

In recent months Iran's leaders have announced repeatedly that they intend to buy two 300-MW nuclear power stations from China. It appears that the acquisition of the second power station has been suspended, but no explanation has been given in this regard.

According to IRNA, before leaving the Iranian capital Li Lanqing said that the agreements concerning the metro, the cement factory, and the nuclear power plant will be implemented "in the near future."

On the other hand, Hamid Mirzadeh, a deputy president of the republic of Iran, announced that Iran and China have signed an economic, academic, and technical protocol, which is "opening new horizons in relations between the two countries."

Mirzadeh said that the two countries intend to jointly build an oil refinery in China to refine Iran's oil. Mirzadeh added: The construction of this refinery will permit Peking to import more crude oil from Iran and to balance the trade between the two countries. The volume of these exchanges is now $400 million, and China has a significant trade surplus with Iran.

On the other hand, an Iranian official emphasized that the nuclear cooperation between Tehran and Peking to build a nonmilitary power plant will take place "under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency."

* Oil, Gas Cooperation With India Detailed

93LA0115F London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] In its 16 Tir [7 Jul] issue, the newspaper ABRAR reported that Iran and India have reached agreements to expand their cooperation in matters of gas and oil. These agreements took place at the end of a meeting in Tehran between Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Iran's minister of petroleum, and his Indian counterpart Satish Sharma. The Indian minister of [state] for petroleum went to Iran for a two-day visit on Monday 5 July.

ABRAR writes that Iran and India reached an agreement to study a project to create a major pipeline between the two countries. Iran also wants to increase its oil exports to India to more than 3 million tons. The two countries decided to expand their cooperation in oil exploration and production.

On the other hand, Satish Sharma called for expanded cooperation between the two countries in the area of petrochemicals, and also for joint investments in the creation of a chemical fertilizer plant on Qeshm Island. Qeshm is a free trade and industrial zone.

Experts say Iran ranks second in the world in terms of gas reserves, and that after the year 2,000 it can export 50 billion cubic meters per year. Iran has begun negotiations with the Ukraine and also with a consortium consisting of European companies about exporting its surplus gas to Europe.

* Direct Tehran-Yerevan Flights Begin

93LA0115C London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] The Iran Air company Air Tour, which has a representative of Armenia Air in Iran, has arranged for a weekly direct flight from Tehran to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

The aircraft of this company fly from Tehran directly to Yerevan on Sundays.

* Joint Pipeline To Take Azeri Oil to Turkey

93LA0115G London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] On Tuesday 6 July Rasul Qolizadeh, deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan, announced that the main pipeline that is to go to the Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik in Turkey to carry oil from the Republic of Azerbaijan for export to other countries will go through Iran and Nakhichevan.

Qolizadeh, who went to Istanbul to take part in a meeting of leaders of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), added that this pipeline will never cross Armenian soil. He also completely denied any possibility of transporting Azerbaijan's oil to a port on the Black Sea.

Rasul Qolizadeh vigorously denied press reports about the cancellation of a contract for using Azerbaijan's oil, which had been signed between this country and an international consortium. It had previously been rumored that following the removal from office of Abol-Fazl Ilchi Beg, former president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this treaty became void.

IRNA Director on Need To Confront 'Cultural Assault'

LD2107105393 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Kermanshah, July 21, IRNA—Managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Fereydoun Verdinejad here Tuesday [20 July] said arrogant powers, in a blatant cultural assault, were trying to substitute genuine cultural values of the Third World nations with their pre-organized patterns and values.

Speaking to a gathering of provincial officials, the IRNA head stressed that hegemonic regimes had now changed their tactics from military or political challenges to penetrating deep into the hearts of nations in order to deviate their cultural values, particularly those of the Muslim Iranians.

Verdinejad said that cultural assault should be encountered by employing offensive means since cultural defence, in addition to being costly, would increase the degree of vulnerability.

He noted that enemies had been successful in paving the way for their cultural invasion, therefore, "it is our grave responsibility to provide the people with sound news and cultural information in order to block the way to such an assault."

He underlined IRNA's responsibility under the present juncture for providing people and officials with news and information and stressed that IRNA was being considered as the forefront of confrontation with cultural assaults.

Majles Deputy Speaks on Qualifications for Ministers

LD2007130893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Pre-agenda speech at Majles open session by Tehran Deputy Morteza Nabavi; with interpolation by Speaker Nateq-Nuri—live]

[Text] [Nebavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is an address to the noble people and the honorable deputies regarding the future government.

We are passing through a sensitive time and the Majles is on the verge of giving its vote of confidence to a government that will lead the country's executive for the next four years. Most probably following the confirmation and oath ceremonies, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will introduce his preferred ministers to the Majles. Various groups and currents are making an effort to give their views and proposals to the president. Every establishment and every person is expressing support or criticism of one or several organizations. Naturally here, more than anywhere else, the Majles must be active. This is because the deputies wish to transfer the trust that the people have given them to the ministers of the cabinet.

As the great leader of the revolution pointed out, each of us deputies is responsible for the vote of confidence we cast and we must answer for it. The vote of confidence is a trust given to us by the people, which must be in turn given to the most pious, competent, and enlightened individuals for the ministerial posts. Enthusiasm and activity by the people, the press, groups and the Majles regarding the introduction of pious individuals and criticism of the [word indistinct] is worthy of praise and indicates the seriousness of society in participating in political issues and in safeguarding political independence, an important achievement of the Islamic revolution in itself.

With regard to the fact that some of the press and some of the deputies have warned the Majles on occasions, it is necessary to make several points. First: the fourth Majles was formed with the slogan: Follow the imam, obey the leader, support Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and it is always loyal to this strategic slogan. There is nothing wrong for the currents that were causing problems for the government yesterday, to be more royalist than the king and feverishly support Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. But they should be at least fair, no—more royal than the king—and be able to prove these claims in their actions in the years to come. It is not sufficient to sympathize and support only when it is time to appoint the cabinet. The fourth Majles will have total obedience to the position of the leader and will firmly support the honorable president on the formation of a cabinet closer to the demands of the people and less criticized by society.

Second: The fourth Majles neither cares for nor credits the creation of a left-right divide in society and among officials, a practice that is the product of the Tudeh Party and the BBC. The criteria for the election of ministers is in their loyalty to the practice of the imam, obedience to the leader, efficiency, revolutionary spirit, belief in the practicality of Islam in the practice of politics, economy and culture, disregard for worldly attractions and positions, deep religious and political understanding, knowledge, and responsibility.

[Nateq-Nuri] Your time is up.

[Nabavi] One more sentence.

[Speaker] Only one then.

[Nabavi] Those who in the analysis of a newspaper are on the extreme right or extreme left are failures if they are wasteful, luxurious, undisciplined, factionalist, opportunist, or weak managers. The noble people know that last week the Majles approved the inquiry and inspection of the Ministries of Metals and Mines and Culture and Higher Education. Therefore analyzing the actions of the Majles in a left-right spectrum indicates a lack of correct understanding of the Majles. Thank God, the deputies act according to original Islamic and revolutionary principles and their criteria are the line of the imam and the guidance of the great position of leadership. I will pass out the remainder to the Majles.

Majles Approves New Regulations on Imports, Exports

LD2107115993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Report on Majles open session by correspondent Forughi]

[Excerpts] As you heard earlier in the news, in its open session today the Majles passed 17 articles of the bill on regulations governing imports and exports. On the basis of the contents of these articles, all regulations relating to imports and exports of goods and services will be determined by this law, and all other laws that contravene it will be canceled. The bill divides imported and exported goods into three categories: permitted, conditional, and banned. It emphasizes that the import and export of goods for commercial purposes requires a trade license. Cooperatives on the border regions, seamen, peddlers and Iranian workers residing abroad are exempt, under certain conditions from possessing trade licenses. On the basis of one of the ratified articles, priority should be given to Iranian transport facilities for all the country's imported goods, and the government is dutybound to provide special locations for the safe storage of goods needed to repair and equip merchant ships and cargo ships and aircraft.

The importers of different goods—both public and private—should apply exclusively to the Ministry of Commerce for their import permits and registration of their orders. This permit will also act as a clearance permit and there will therefore be no need to obtain a separate clearance permit. Border-residing households [khanevar] or their cooperatives and seamen are exempted from customs charges and trade tax by 100 percent on foodstuffs in general and by 50 percent on household goods. Iranian workers permitted to work abroad can also import machinery, tools, and primary material needed by the country by observing the limit and benefiting from some percentage exemptions from commercial profit tax.

According to another article the government has been authorized to take steps toward setting up border markets on the border regions if it deems it beneficial to do so. [passage omitted]

All exported goods of the country except for crude oil and its low-grade by-products will be exempted from any kind of foreign exchange undertaking and contract. [passage omitted]

At today's open session of the Majlis the credentials of Yunes Mohammadi, deputy for Khorramshahr; Mohammad Karimian, deputy for Piranshahr and Sardasht; and Askari Faqih-Aliabadi, deputy for Qa'em-Shahr and Savadkuh, were passed.

TEHRAN TIMES Views Strengthening of Rial

LD2107083293 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday [21 July] commented on the recent drop in the parity rates of the three major foreign currencies, U.S. dollar, German mark and pound sterling, and said such a downward trend would result in the strengthening of the local currency. In its editorial 'TEHRAN TIMES' noted, "the greater strengthening of the Iranian currency is on the whole a very hopeful trend...however a number of circumstances and factors should be kept in mind in the further pursuance of such policies."

The strengthened local currency, the article added, could provide solutions for a great number of the country's economic and political problems provided that the Central Bank could keep up the present trend of the monetary improvement. It stressed that creation of balanced conditions which offer producers and exporters reasonable incentives for engaging in the sort of productive activities which would set in motion the economic wheels of the country should be sought.

"While the downward trend in the parity rates of the foreign exchanges against the local currency is quite desirable, it is also important that the trend is not forced on the market. It should be allowed to emerge as the logical or natural outcome of the implementation of balanced economic development," it added.

However, the daily suggested, instead of relying too much on the current improvement, "we should work for the sustained increase of the value of rial. For only a continued growth can be taken as the true sign of the general improvement in the economic conditions."

It concluded by saying that government's economic and monetary policies should be adopted with a view to insuring the continued improvement of the local currency and the creation of conditions which will encourage productive activities by the private sector.

* Foreign Exchange Shortage More Intense

93LA0115B London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] The pressure of the shortage of foreign exchange has become so much more intense in Iran that the government has authorized the Central Bank to make direct presales of oil or borrow money from foreign banks to procure the foreign exchange it needs.

This authorization was given to the Central Bank by the newly established committee called the Foreign Exchange Market Organization Committee (which was approved by the Majles as part of the 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] Budget Law) composed of the president of the republic and the ministers of economics, petroleum, industries, heavy industries, mines and metals, and commerce, the chief of the Central Bank, and two Majles deputies.

The newspaper HAMSHAHRI reports that the Central Bank was also required to open credit accounts of a maximum of $10 to $15 million to meet the needs of the ministries of industries, heavy industries, and mines and metals in the countries designated by these ministries. These were described as "necessary and emergency" needs.

This shows the kind of unprecedented problems the government is facing in getting the foreign exchange it needs. At the same time, the credit rating of the ministries with foreign lending banks has come down so much that credit accounts cannot be opened except through mediation with the Central Bank.

At the same meeting the decision was made that production units can import emergency goods up to a limit of $5,000 without transferring foreign exchange (through authorized banks). The production units were also authorized to meet their needs through receiving bills of exchange or by registering orders with the bank without a prior deposit. The bank will take the necessary deposit or security when the applicant requests a subscription.

In any case, the applicant is required to submit a commitment to the bank that the funds for the bill of exchange on the due date will be paid to the interested party only through the bank in which the order is registered.

* University Professor Arrested by Hezbollahis

93LA0115A London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Hezbollahis sent to Mashhad University last week disrupted ceremonies honoring Dr. 'Ali Shari'ati at Ferdowsi University with slogans in favor of the religious ruler of the chief jurisconsult and in opposition to the speech by the professor who was speaking.

The professor was making points that were not to the liking of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The newspaper JAHAN-E ESLAM writes that at the end of the ceremonies police agents arrested the professor and took him with them. The name of the arrested professor was not disclosed.

* Naval Commander Appointment Announced

93LA0115D London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] Second Naval Commander Gholamhoseyn Radfar was appointed as coordinating deputy of the Naval Forces of the Islamic Republic, and Commander Bahman Shafiqi, former deputy commander of the Navy, retired.

Rebel Radio Calls for Support for 'Armed Struggle'

NC2107070293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary: "All Forms of Struggle and Activity Continue"]

[Text] The justness of the Kurdish people's struggle to fulfill its slogans finds more people joining in the struggle and sacrifices. Struggles to achieve democracy and autonomy under the leadership and direction of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] have always been versatile. The masses in Kordestan resort to every means to pressure the regime ruling our country to accept the people's just rights. Although some methods of struggle may be more effective and some less dangerous for the regime, for the DPK and the strugglers for freedom, every method is of equal significance.

The armed struggle of the party's confident and combatant children and the masses during recent years has been the most significant and most effective method of struggle to turn Kordestan into the enemy's graveyard. Although the Islamic Republic's regime has deployed tens of thousands of revolution guards, soldiers, and basijis, set up hundreds of bases, garrisons, and military centers in the cities, villages, and roads of Kordestan, and made life difficult for the people, the armed children of the Kurdish people from among the peshmerga have inflicted extremely heavy blows on the regime's forces. The operations enjoy a special place in the history of our people's struggle.

The consecutive and tireless operations by the peshmerga against the enemy forces in Kordestan should be regarded as a strong element making the Kordestan movement stand out and causing helplessness among the enemy's forces.

The heroic and successful operations by the party's combatant children and the people in Mahabad, Piranshahr, Oshnaviyeh, and Baneh in the past few days, killing, wounding, and capturing several members of the enemy's forces and confiscating a large quantity of arms and ammunition, again proved that the faith and determination of the peshmerga forces are so great that they will never allow these forces to feel weak and impotent before the enemy.

These revolutionary operations deep inside Kordestan, when the enemy's fierce battle cries can be heard throughout the area and when it has even aggressed the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan on this pretext, show that those who are fighting the regime's forces on the battlefields are not merely a few misled armed men or mercenaries who

came to Kordestan from elsewhere, as the regime claims, but represent a popular force rising from the hearts of the people of Kordestan.

How long will the enemy fool itself and think it fools the masses? How long will it promise to destroy the so-called counterrevolutionary force and tell the people that it will not face the threat of a war and conflict in Kordestan? What has the regime done to expect this movement to die down?

The DPK, which intends to lead decisively the struggle by the masses in Iranian Kordestan until all their just demands are met, will not allow the enemy to harass the toiling and oppressed people of Kordestan. As long as the peshmerga forces of Kordestan exist and the masses thirsting for freedom in Kordestan consider the peshmerga part of them and support them, the antipopular enemy should expect to receive still heavier blows.

True, the lives of the strugglers for our people's freedom and welfare are threatened often and strugglers are often martyred, but they do not fear death; they consider it an honor to die while struggling because they know they tread an extremely sacred path and their names will always be remembered by the masses in Kordestan and by all the freedom seekers in Iran and elsewhere.

The cities, villages, mountains, valleys, and fields of Kordestan will remain the main battlefields and the combatant masses of Kordestan will use every method of struggle to achieve their objectives and their aspirations.

The struggles by the peshmerga face many threats and need more facilities. Without the assistance and support of the masses in the cities and villages, the peshmerga forces will face many difficulties. For the efforts by the party and the people's devoted children who wage an armed struggle against the enemy to continue and expand, everyone must assist them and encourage them to inflict heavier blows on the enemy. Undoubtedly, this cooperation and solidarity will yield fruit and bring honor and glory to all those who defend the revolutionary path of the martyrs of Kordestan in one way or another, namely, through armed struggle.

Pakistan

Government Confirms PRC Denial on M-11 Missile Sale

LD2007133193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] China has denied selling of M-11 missiles to Pakistan, and Pakistan on its part has already confirmed the Chinese position. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today. He was commenting on reports published in the NEW YORK TIMES about Clinton administration's pressure on China to stop transfer of missile technology to Pakistan.

Spokesman Expresses Concern on Afghan-Tajik Border Attacks

BK2007144193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said the Government of Pakistan has been following with concern recent reports of cross-border attacks on both sides of Afghanistan and Tajikistan boundary and regrets the heavy loss of life these attacks have caused among the civilian population as well as security forces, including Russian Border Guards on the Tajikistan side. As a neighboring country which enjoys close friendship based on age-old cultural ties with Afghanistan, Pakistan earnestly desires to see an early end to these attacks. Pakistan also regards the return of stability and tranquillity in the area as essential to promotion of close economic ties bilaterally and under the auspices of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] of which all the three countries are members. Pakistan supports a peaceful solution to all political problems of the region through negotiation. Pakistan, therefore, calls upon both Afghanistan and Tajikistan to resolve their current differences peacefully through negotiation. It also urges all parties to respect the sanctity of international borders to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from any action which may lead to an escalation of attacks. In this context, Pakistan has noted the statement of the Russian security minister, Mr. Viktor Barannikov, on 19 July that Russia does not plan any large-scale action in the area.

Caretaker Prime Minister Comments on Meeting Bhutto

BK2007150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, had a meeting with the former prime minister and cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, national matters came up for discussion. Later, the prime minister had an informal chat with newsmen.

[Begin recording] [Qureshi, in progress] ...that we will be facing in the next few days, the most important of them is to ensure that there will be a free election and there will be a fair election and will be perceived to be that. Then that is the top priority that we have, of this government, and I intend to make sure that we will do every thing in our power to ensure that there is a level playing field. Secondly, we have also discussed the economic situation of the country and we have talked about some of the steps that could be taken to strengthen the situation. I think she is just as interested as any citizen of Pakistan in making sure that this country continues to progress and therefore we hope that we will be to take some steps that will continue some of the policies that have contributed to the long growth record of Pakistan.

[Unidentified reporter] Ms Bhutto yesterday asked for some electoral reforms and to hold elections of the national and provincial assemblies the same date. (?Was that issue) brought up today?

[Qureshi] She has brought up a number of issues. As you know, she has already indicated some of the things she would like to see changed in terms of the structure, procedures, and the regulations that govern the elections. We will study them very seriously. I have assured her that we will give it very serious consideration and do what we think is absolutely right to ensure fair elections.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, in your 1990 speech in Lahore, you had given your own recipe for the political system in Pakistan. Do you intend to implement them in [words indistinct]?

[Qureshi] I have a very short period of time, and I do not intend to stay a day beyond that. I hope that we can have elections. As a representative government, I will try to do everything to the best of my capacity that I said in that speech in Lahore. As you recall, one of the things I said in that speech was that one of the most serious problems of Pakistan was the factionalism and the division that had crept in in the Muslim community. That is not a problem that can be resolved in a period of two and half to three months, but, nonetheless, I hope that after the conflict, the differences of views that have occurred, there can now be a period of much greater harmony where differences in political matters and on policies can be resolved through a democratic process fairly and squarely. That is what elections are good for. [end recording]

New Government Facing 'Economy in Shambles'

BK2007112793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Jul 93 p 9

[Text] Karachi—Pakistan's new caretaker government inducted ahead of mid-term polls in October faces the hard task of saving the country from bankruptcy and reviving an economy in shambles.

Interim Prime Minister Moin Qureshi, 63, is considered well-equipped for both tasks. A suave, soft-spoken economist, he is respected by politicians of all shades as well as the establishment for his [word indistinct] and professionalism.

Qureshi's transition government is mandated to hold "free and fair" general elections on October 6, as called for following the resignations of president Ghulam Ishaq Khan and prime minister Nawaz Sharif in an army-led political shake-up ending a six-month power struggle between the two chief executives.

Ishaq Khan and Sharif resigned Sunday after being persuaded to do so by army chief General Abdul Waheed.

Qureshi, who holds a doctorate in economics from Indiana University in the United States, is a former senior vice president of the Would Bank and was the first Asian to hold the number two position in the international financial institution.

Qureshi's ascent to power comes as Pakistan's economy is as confused as the political situation with official inflation projected at 9.6 percent and the unofficial rate posted between 15 percent and 18 percent.

The power struggle between Ishaq Khan and Sharif brought the country to brink of an economic crisis, with foreign exchange reserves down about 350 to 400 million dollars and a budget deficit of four billion dollars.

Foreign debt totals nearly 22 billion dollars.

All foreign investment, despite liberal incentives and reforms enacted by Sharif were at a standstill during his argument over the destribution of executive powers with Ishaq Khan.

On Thursday, Pakistan devalued its currency 3.165 percent to 28 rupees to the dollar in a major move aimed at boosting exports and reducing the 3.26 billion dollar foreign trade deficit.

[Word indistinct] products and crude oil imports alone cost the country a [word indistinct] billion dollars a year. A 10 percent surcharge was imposed recently on domestic petroleum prices to discourage extravagant consumption and to reduce the budget deficit.

Since the Gulf War, remittances sent by expatriate Pakistani workers—a major source of foreign exchange for the country—have fallen from about two billion dollars to 1.5 billion dollars over the past fiscal year, which ended in June.

Following the elections scheduled for October 6, Pakistan will be required to repay some 900 million dollars as installments on its external debt.

Qureshi's contacts at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are likely to be useful in obtaining 400 million dollars as the first installment of a recently agreed one billion dollar soft loan under the IMF Enhanced Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP).

His government can expect to get another 350 million dollars in loans from Japan to service the IMF loan and avoid defaulting.

A World Bank-sponsored consortium of western nations is scheduled to meet in [word indistinct] in early September to consider Pakistan's request for 2.3 billion dollars in long-term aid to finance development projects.

However, natural disasters such as monsoon floods in the region of the Indus river and its tributaries, which have caused an estimated two billion dollars worth of losses to crops and property [word indistinct] year. Floods have also hit Punjab province, but the extent of damage is not yet known.

Sri Lanka

Air Force Raids Inflict 'Heavy Casualties' on LTTE

BK2007113093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Heavy LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] casualties were reported during the weekend when Sri Lanka Air Force combat aircraft attacked the LTTE's largest base complex in the north. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that fighter bombers bombed and

strafed (Nakothi) base complex in the thick jungles of Mullaitivu, killing or wounding a large number of LTTE cadres. Pilots reported observing a number of convoys of vehicles carrying the casualties northward. The sources said that the high-intensity raids were also made on LTTE positions at Kilinochchi, south of Mannar, and some areas of the Jaffna Peninsula.

UK Team Finds No Government Link to Athulathmudali Death

BK1707114693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Scotland Yard detectives investigating the assassination of Lalith Athulathmudali [Democratic United National Front leader] has concluded that it was carried out by the person identified as Raghunathan, alias Appiah Balasingham.

The four-member team of detectives, led by Dectective Superintendent Alec Edward, has handed over its report to government. The detectives have also concluded that the assassin was later found dead. They believed that he took his own life by swallowing cyanide. An analytic study of the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] methods of operation shows that this act is in total concert with their subversive activities. The detectives say that there is no evidence to link this assassination with the government, the UNP [United National Party], or officials of other state agencies, including the police.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1137 GMT on 17 July in a similar report adds: "The widow of a slain Sri Lankan opposition leader Saturday rejected a report by Britain's Scotland Yard blaming Tamil Tigers for her husband's assassination and clearing the Colombo government of involvement. Srimani Athulathmudali accused detective superintendent Alec Edwards, author of a report released by the government Friday, of manipulating evidence to fit preconceived conclusions in the killing of her husband Lalith Athulathmudali in April."

[The agency adds: "Athulathmudali said she was preparing a detailed critique of the Scotland Yard report in consultation with her lawyers." She is quoted as saying the report was "full of surmise and speculation" and that it had "all the hallmarks of a report striving to provide evidence to support a preconceived conclusion."

[AFP adds: "Edwards said the murder weapon used on Athulathmudali was a pistol manufactured in Czechoslovakia and later sold to Lebanon, a country he said had links with the LTTE. He said forensic experts from Scotland Yard established that the body found near the election rally where Athulathmudali was killed was the assassin and rejected theories he had been set up. The assassin had been seriously injured by shots from Athulathmudali's bodyguard and had killed himself by taking cyanide, the report said."]